"SEISHUN NO YAMAI WA"
[The Sickness in Youth]

Chapters 1-4 & epilogue
by Nishida Higashi

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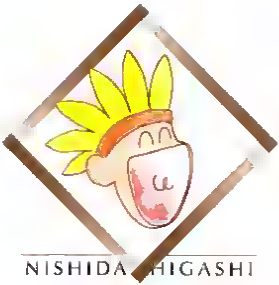
Scans Marti ~>Thank you<~
Cleaning Aripie ~>Thank you<~
Half baked translation typeset lyrebird

A Half Baked/Nakama joint scanlation
URL http //lyrebird.nithine.org/halfbaked
http //nakamanga.com/



NISHIDA HIGASHI

西田 東

COMMENT

"Seishun no Yamai wa" (The Sickness in Youth) is a story in which I wanted to depict normal characters struggling with typical sentiments everyone can relate to.

"Tengoku ga Mieru" (Viewing Heaven) is a sequel to "Negai Kanae Tamae" (Grant My Wish). I'm so glad I was allowed to create a story about Kudo after the events of "Negai Kanae Tamae."

Hanaoto◆Comics Hanaoto◆Comics Hanaoto◆Comics

TEZUKA DESIGN OFFICE

青春の病は

西田東

Nishida Higashi

青春の病は ……
Chapters 1-4 Seishun no Yamai wa
天国が見える ……
Chapters 5-6 Tengoku ga
GOOD NIG

西田東

青春の病は

THE SICKNESS IN YOUTH

花音

青春の病は

西田東

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定価：本体571円 +税

Several years later, while working as a successful businessman for a commercial laboratory, Minato is reunited with Matsumoto once again. So begins the tale of a man haunted by the memory of his first love in the title story, "Seishun no Yamai wa" (The Sickness in Youth).

The second story "Tengoku ga Mieru" (Viewing Heaven), is about Kudo's life after the events of "Negai Kanae Tamae" (Grant My Wish).

A specially written epilogue rounds out this compilation of two men's love stories.

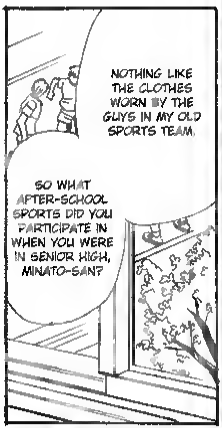
Back when he was in senior high, the studious Minato accidentally came across classmate Matsumoto absorbed in pleasure while masturbating outdoors. Both boys have nothing in common. Minato is a loner constantly studying for entrance exams, while the popular Matsumoto harbors a closely guarded secret. Although they decide to act as if nothing unusual happened that day, the entire scene is branded in Minato's memory and refuses to fade over time.

THE SICKNESS IN YOUTH

Seishun no Yamai wa

青春の病は 1

The Sickness in Youth Chapter 1


NOTHING LIKE THE CLOTHES WORN BY THE GUYS IN MY OLD SPORTS TEAM.
SO WHAT AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN WHEN YOU WERE IN SENIOR HIGH, MINATO-SAN?

I FIND TEENAGERS WEAR SUCH BOLD AND FLASHY OUTFITS THESE DAYS.
BESIDES, NO ONE ELSE MAKES USE OF THE GROUNDS AT THIS TIME.
THEY'RE FROM THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEXT DOOR. THEY'RE ALLOWED TO PLAY HERE A COUPLE OF TIMES A WEEK.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING DOWN THERE? OUR FIRM DOESN'T RUN A SPORTS CLUB!
HM?

LABORATORIES LTD.

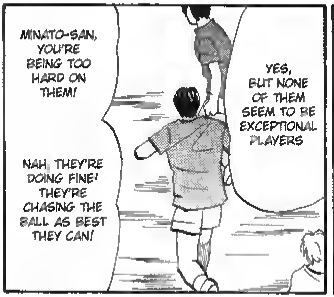
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I STARTED WORKING OUT WHEN I ENTERED UNI.
REALLY? BUT SURELY WITH YOUR FAIRLY GOOD PHYSIQUE—
AH, I SO YOU'RE THE TYPE OF GUY WHO GOT HIS FIRST BIG BREAK AT UNI, HUH?
ME TOO!

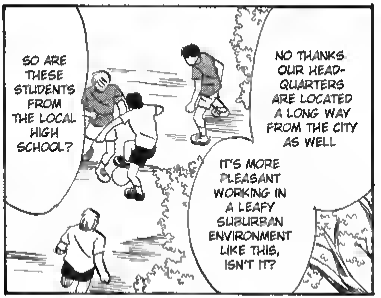
NONE
I WAS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE 'GO HOME EARLY' CLUB SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.

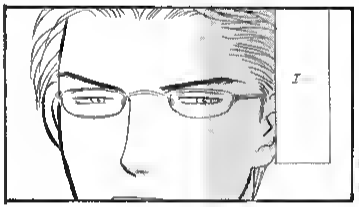
I NEVER BECAME A TEAM REGULAR, AND I DIDN'T GET A GIRL-FRIEND EITHER
BUT I SAT ON THE BENCH THE WHOLE TIME
YEAH IN THE INTER-MEDIATE AND TOP DIVISIONS
YOU PLAYED BASKETBALL, DIDN'T YOU?
ERR I SEE YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A MOTIVATED PERSON, MINATO-SAN
I WORKED OUT TO IMPROVE MY OWN FITNESS
MY BIG GOAL BACK THEN WAS TO BE POPULAR WITH GIRLS SO I EVEN READ MAGAZINES AND KEPT UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST FASHION TRENDS.
O-OF COURSE MINATO-SAN! THAT'S MY CURRENT OBJECTIVE!
SO WE'RE MEETING TWO PEOPLE NOW?
HUH?
YOUR JOB IS TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE ABLE TO RELIVE THE GOOD OLD DAYS IS NOT OUR COMPANY'S CONCERN
JUST AS WELL THAT'S THE LAST THING ANY OF US NEED
LOOKING BACK NOW, I'VE GOT TO WONDER WHY I BOTHERED CHASING AFTER THAT BALL FROM DAWN TO DUSK LIKE A MANIAC
A SHAME WE CAN'T TURN BACK THE CLOCK TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS HUH?
THERE YOU ARE!
BY ALL MEANS, COME IN
kachik
ガチャ
EXCUSE US! MAY WE ENTER?
knock knock knock
YES, THAT'S RIGHT
THEY'RE FROM J M MANUFACTURING ONE IS THEIR CHIEF ENGINEER AND THE OTHER IS DIRECTOR OF ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTS

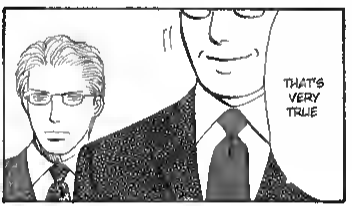
I'LL TELL HIM TO HURRY UP
YES, PLEASE EXCUSE HIM. HE HAD TO USE YOUR MEN'S ROOM
BUT WHERE IS YOUR COLLEAGUE? WAS HE CALLED AWAY?
NOT AT ALL PLEASE TAKE A SEAT—OR WHY DON'T WE SPEND A BIT MORE TIME ADMIRING THE SAKURA TREES OUTSIDE?

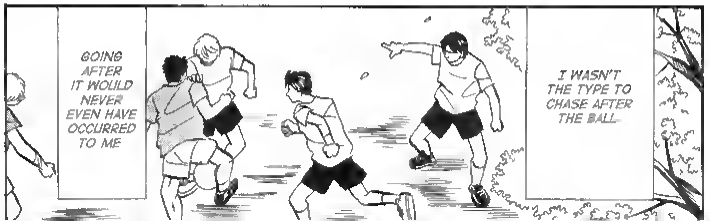
I'M INOUE FROM THE ENGINEERING DIVISION
I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET YET
NAKATA FROM J.M. MANUFACTURING I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.
I'M MINATO, IN CHARGE OF ANALYTICAL SYSTEMS


MINATO-SAN, YOU'RE BEING TOO HARD ON THEM!
YES, BUT NONE OF THEM SEEM TO BE EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS
NAH, THEY'RE DOING FINE! THEY'RE CHASING THE BALL AS BEST THEY CAN!


SO ARE THESE STUDENTS FROM THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL?
NO THANKS. OUR HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED A LONG WAY FROM THE CITY AS WELL
IT'S MORE PLEASANT WORKING IN A LEAFY SUBURBAN ENVIRONMENT LIKE THIS, ISN'T IT?


I...


THAT'S VERY TRUE


GOING AFTER IT WOULD NEVER EVEN HAVE OCCURRED TO ME
I WASN'T THE TYPE TO CHASE AFTER THE BALL

WHAT MADE ME INSANE ENOUGH TO CHASE HIM IN THAT RACE BACK THEN?
YET THERE ARE TIMES I VIVIDLY RECALL THAT ONE MOMENT LONG AGO
WAS IT MY OWN TYPICAL TEENAGE BRAVADO?
OR WAS IT SOME-THING ELSE
.....
AHA!
bounce
ポコ
OUCH!
I MUST BE CRAZY! WHY WOULD SHE GO OUT WITH ME?
AT BEST SHE'LL SIMPLY LAUGH AT ME!
SHOULD I TRY ASKING HER OUT AFTER I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO A UNIVERSITY?
I WONDER IF SHE'S DATING A GUY AT THE MOMENT
BUT SHE SEEMS REALLY NICE AND FRIENDLY
SHE DOESN'T STAND OUT WITH HER AVERAGE LOOKS
SHE'S GOTOU FROM CLASS TWO
DOES SHE HAVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION NOW?

YO, MATSUMOTO! KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL, WILL YOU?
DID IT HIT YOU?
AH! MY FAULT!
WHO THREW THIS?
HEY!
OH, SANKYU!
.....
catch
YET THESE MORONS WASTE EVERY MINUTE AND SECOND OF THEIR TIME
THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT STUDYING HARD FOR EXAMS. THIS IS MEANT TO BE A FREE STUDY PERIOD
GETTING MAD IS MORE TROUBLE THAN IT'S WORTH
SHEESH! THEY'RE MAKING SO MUCH NOISE!
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
KYA HA HA HA!
AND AFTER THAT...

BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH MY FATHER HAD TO CHANGE JOBS DURING THE RESTRUCTURING OF HIS FIRM.
YET I WAS ABLE TO MAKE IT INTO AN ELITE PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL
I ALSO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL AND A PRIVATE PREP SCHOOL FOR THE UPCOMING UNI EXAMS.
BUT I REALLY WISH THE OTHER THIRD YEARS WERE AT LEAST A BIT MORE QUIETER THAN THIS
CHECK THIS OUT!
MAKE SURE YOU STUDY THIS STUFF AS WELL, BOY!
YOU CAN BORROW MY COPY.
SEE THOSE STAINS? I WAS JERKING OFF TO THIS CENTERFOLD AND SPRAYED A BIT OVER HERE...
WOW! YOU'RE TURNING BRIGHT RED!
KEEP IT DOWN, ALL OF YOU! HOW CAN YOU STUDY WITH THAT RACKET?
slide
CLATTER
SENSEI, MATSUMOTO BROUGHT A PORN MAGAZINE TO SCHOOL.
AH...
snatch
RIGHT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT!
HEY!
YOU BE QUIET!
YOU LITTLE...
HMPH!

I DON'T LIKE TALKING TO ANY OF THE GUYS IN THIS SCHOOL
Flash
I DON'T GET THAT KIND OF STUFF AT ALL I'D NEVER TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT EITHER
rustle
GEEZ... BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM THAT BAD A GUY
WEIRD I WONDER IF HE WAS PICKING ON ME ON PURPOSE
TCH! I WAS HOPING TO GET A SHOT OF THAT NICE SPIDERWEB NEXT TO THE P.E TEACHER'S OFFICE
HUH? DON'T TELL ME THE TEACHERS ARE STILL HERE!
WHAT A PAIN! MAYBE I SHOULD GO HOME NOW...
HM?
ONCE I GET THROUGH THE UNI ENTRANCE EXAMS, I'LL FIND A PART-TIME JOB.
I KNEW IT I NEED A PROPER CAMERA NOT A DISPOSABLE ONE LIKE THIS
I WONDER IF I CAN STUDY PLANTS SUCH AS SAKURA AT UNIVERSITY
I WONDER IF THIS CHEAP CAMERA CAN TAKE A DECENT SHOT OF THEM
WHAT
- ARE YOU DOING?
MATSU-MOTO?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
HEY!
THAT'S NOT A TEACHER

WHAT THE HELL...
DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING...
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
HE'S CRAZY TO DO THIS...
OVER HERE ON HIS OWN.

drip
drip
drip

ハッシャ
Hash

.....
ERR...
.....
AH!
blush
YANK

EXCUSE ME
GRAB
EH?
dash
HOLD IT!
WAIT UP!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
WAIT UP, WILL YOU?
MATSU
cough cough
MOTO?
wobble
wobble
THUNK

MATSU-MOTO!
cough cough wheeze wheeze
MATSU-MOTO?
wheeze cough wheeze cough wheeze
fumble
fumble
WHAT IS IT?
WHERE IS IT?
ARE YOU ON MEDS OF SOME KIND?
IS THIS IT?
snatch

W-WAIT! H-HERE'S THE CAMERA!
MATSU-MOTO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? SHOULD I CALL A TEACHER?
huff
huff
huff
I...
I MEANT NO HARM, HONEST.
I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE CAMERA.
AT THE TIME I COULD HAVE SWORN...
snatch

MOST LIKELY HE WAS HAVING AN ASTHMA ATTACK
WEREN'T WE IN THE SAME CLASS BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
I MEAN IF I HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN SUCH A SITUATION I WOULD'VE DIED OF SHAME
BUT HE MANAGED TO KEEP HIS COOL UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES.
...HE WAS COMING BACK TO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF ME.
INSTEAD OF GRABBING THE CAMERA AND STORMING OFF
I MADE HIM PANIC WHEN I TOOK THE DAMN PHOTO
WAS IT MY FAULT?
I THINK HE'S A MEMBER OF THE SWIMMING TEAM,
AND HE USUALLY DOES WELL IN P.E CLASSES
OF THAT BASTARD WRITHING AGAINST THE WALL BY HIMSELF?
WHY ON EARTH DID I TAKE SUCH A STUPID PHOTO...
.....

lurch
lurch
MINATO... AS A TEACHER, I OUGHT TO WARN YOU THAT A CONSCIENTIOUS STUDENT LIKE YOURSELF WILL NEVER GAIN POPULARITY POINTS BY WALKING LIKE A HUNCHBACK
NO, I'M NOT
OH MINATO, WAIT A MINUTE.
IT WAS RUDE AND PERVERTED AND FILTHY AND
.....
.....
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN JERKING OFF OVER THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
SHOULD I APOLOGIZE THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM?
MAYBE BUT...
I WAS TOLD HE WENT TO SICKBAY WITH A BIT OF A COLD
WHAT HAPPENED TO MATSUMOTO?
SINCE MATSUMOTO MISSED FIRST PERIOD, THAT MEANS YOU'RE ON CLASSROOM DAY-DUTY TODAY.
SO HAND THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE IN YOUR CLASS THIS YEAR THE SCHOOL IS HOLDING AN ATHLETICS CARNIVAL INSTEAD OF A TEAM SPORTS TOURNAMENT.
DURING SECOND PERIOD EACH HOMEROOM CLASS WILL MEET TO DISCUSS WHICH STUDENTS WILL ENTER IN THE VARIOUS EVENTS
I HATE THEM BOTH!
URGH!
WHY ATHLETICS? TEAM SPORTS ARE BETTER!
I CAN DO A GOOD LONG JUMP...
...AS LONG I GET A GOOD RUN-UP.
REMEMBER, IF YOU SKIP SCHOOL THAT DAY YOU'LL LOSE P.E. CREDITS!
SO NOW WE'LL DECIDE WHO GOES IN EACH EVENT

WHAT?
THE 1500 METERS EVENT FOR THE UPCOMING ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD RUNNER, AREN'T YOU?

OH!
THERE YOU ARE, MATSU-MOTO! YOU'LL BE PERFECT FOR THIS
slide

1500
ANY TAKERS?
I KNEW IT WE'VE GOT A VACANCY LEFT FOR THE MOST GRUELING EVENT...

ME...?
N-NOT REALLY
R-RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT...
B-BUT...

clatter
カラン
I'LL...

I-I GUESS SO. THEN... I'LL...
I...
WILL YOU DO IT? SINCE YOU'LL PROBABLY WIN, YOU MIGHT AS WELL ENTER

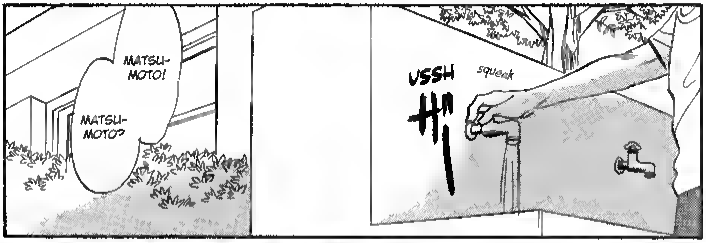
I'LL RUN IT!
I'LL RUN THE 1500 METERS!
シーン
silence
I KNOW WHAT I'M VOLUNTEERING FOR.
MINATO,
YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GETTING MIXED UP WITH THE 1500 CENTIMETERS?

GEEZ, LOOK AT MINATO!
HE'S BEEN TRAILING THE REST OF THE FIELD FROM THE START!
WHY THE HELL DID HE NOMINATE HIMSELF FOR THIS RACE?
.....
YEAH, FOR SURE.
HIS GRADES ARE HIGH ENOUGH ALREADY!
HE'S NOT TRYING TO SWITCH TO SOME OTHER SCHOOL, IS HE?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
wheeze
huff
thud
Ayy
huff
thud
Ayy
wheeze
WHAT...
thud
Ayy
huff
huff

THERE'S NO ONE IN FRONT OR BEHIND ME
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE
I FEEL AS IF I'M THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD RUNNING OUT HERE
WHY ON EARTH AM I PUTTING MYSELF THROUGH THIS ORDEAL?
WHAT WILL I GAIN BY DOING THIS?
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG
WILL I BE TOO EXHAUSTED TO STUDY FOR EXAMS TONIGHT?
HUH?
UGH...
THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD
HE'S RUNNING TOO!

BUT HE'S COVERING A LONGER DISTANCE THAN ME WITH EACH LAP HE MAKES!
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
SIDE BY SIDE YET SO FAR AWAY
SIDE BY SIDE THE WHOLE TIME...
STUPID BASTARD!
WHO DO YOU THINK GOT ME INTO THIS MESS?
I CAN SEE HIS LIPS MOVING
TELLING ME AGAIN AND AGAIN TO GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT
WHO DO YOU THINK IS TO BLAME, DAMMIT?!

OOH I THINK YOU'RE LOOKING MORE MACHO ALREADY!
LUCKY LAST MINATO-KUN! WELL DONE!
ruffle
TCH! OUT OF MY WAY! MOVE IT!
slap
AHH — WHERE DID HE GO?
YES, YOU'VE CROSSED THE FINISH LINE
OH, YOU'RE STILL HERE
AT LAST! I DID IT!
dash


MATSU-MOTO!
MATSU-MOTO?
USSH
squeak

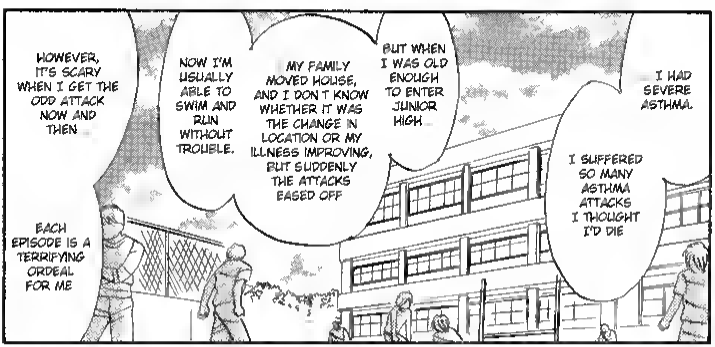
WHAT?
MINATO...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
USSH
splish splash

YOU ASS-HOLE!
ARE YOU SLOW ON YOUR FEET OR WHAT?
YOU WERE WADDLING LIKE A PENGUIN!
SHUT UP! I WAS DOING YOU A FAVOR OUT THERE...

squirt
ブシュー
BLUB!
YOU WERE HOPE-LESS!

BACK WHEN I WAS A CHILD...
squeak

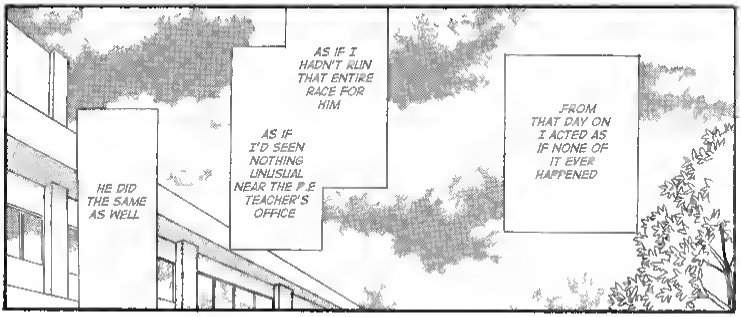
UH...

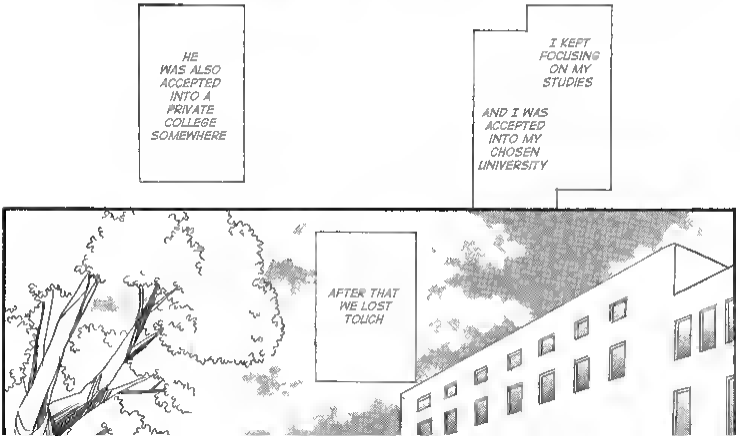

I HAD SEVERE ASTHMA.
I SUFFERED SO MANY ASTHMA ATTACKS I THOUGHT I'D DIE
BUT WHEN I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO ENTER JUNIOR HIGH...
MY FAMILY MOVED HOUSE, AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS THE CHANGE IN LOCATION OR MY ILLNESS IMPROVING, BUT SUDDENLY THE ATTACKS EASED OFF
NOW I'M USUALLY ABLE TO SWIM AND RUN WITHOUT TROUBLE.
HOWEVER, IT'S SCARY WHEN I GET THE ODD ATTACK NOW AND THEN...
EACH EPISODE IS A TERRIFYING ORDEAL FOR ME

IT COMES ON WHEN I FEEL CORNERED OR UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE...
THE DOCTORS HAVE TOLD ME THERE'S A BIG PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPONENT BEHIND IT.
I'M MENTALLY WEAK.
A CHOKER
UNLIKE ME YOU'RE TOUGH INSIDE
BUT YOU'RE JUST SLOW ON YOUR FEET.
HM?
SO THAT TIME...
SO THAT TIME YOU...

ERR NOTHING
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?
W-WHAT?
HEY ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHOA!
WHY DID I RUN IN THAT RACE FOR HIM? WHY DID I TAKE A PHOTO OF HIM WITH MY CAMERA?
グタ
flop
THE WORDS REFUSED TO COME OUT
WHAT IS IT? WHY DID YOU STOP IN MID-SENTENCE, YOU SICK WEIRDO?
ドン
shove
へにょりんちょ
keel over

SO THAT'S WHY
HELL, HE'D PROBABLY RUN AWAY FROM ME FIRST.
EVEN IF HE DID EXPLAIN IT WOULDN'T ACHIEVE ANYTHING
BUT I COULDN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE OF MY OWN BEHAVIOR.
I WANTED HIM TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS DOING OUT THERE THE OTHER DAY.


HE DID THE SAME AS WELL
AS IF I'D SEEN NOTHING UNUSUAL NEAR THE P.E TEACHER'S OFFICE
AS IF I HADN'T RUN THAT ENTIRE RACE FOR HIM
FROM THAT DAY ON I ACTED AS IF NONE OF IT EVER HAPPENED


HE WAS ALSO ACCEPTED INTO A PRIVATE COLLEGE SOMEWHERE
I KEPT FOCUSING ON MY STUDIES
AND I WAS ACCEPTED INTO MY CHOSEN UNIVERSITY
AFTER THAT WE LOST TOUCH

I'VE BEEN HAUNTED BY THAT BEAUTIFUL MEMORY OF HIM EVER SINCE
I HAD A FEELING THAT WOULD BE THE ONLY TIME HE'D EVER CONFIDE IN ME LIKE THAT
A BIT EXUBERANT AND NAIVE STILL A CHEEKY YOUTH AT HEART
SURELY THAT GUY WOULD BE THE SAME PERSON AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THOSE STUDENTS PLAY SOCCER LONG ENOUGH. SHALL WE GET OUR DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY NOW?
ANYWAY, MINATO-SAN...
WHILE I...
I'VE NOW...
MINATO-SAN?
.....

MA
MATSU-MOTO?
IS THAT YOU, MATSU-MOTO?
MATSU-MOTO?!
EH?
slam
I KNEW HE WAS TAKING TOO LONG IN THE MEN'S ROOM!
ARGH! MATSUMOTO! WHAT'S HE DOING OUT THERE?!
YOU'RE MEANT TO BE WORKING! WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING WITH THOSE STUDENTS FOR?
GET BACK IN HERE, MATSU-MOTO!
slide

WHAM
clack
clack
dash
dash
MINATO-SAN!

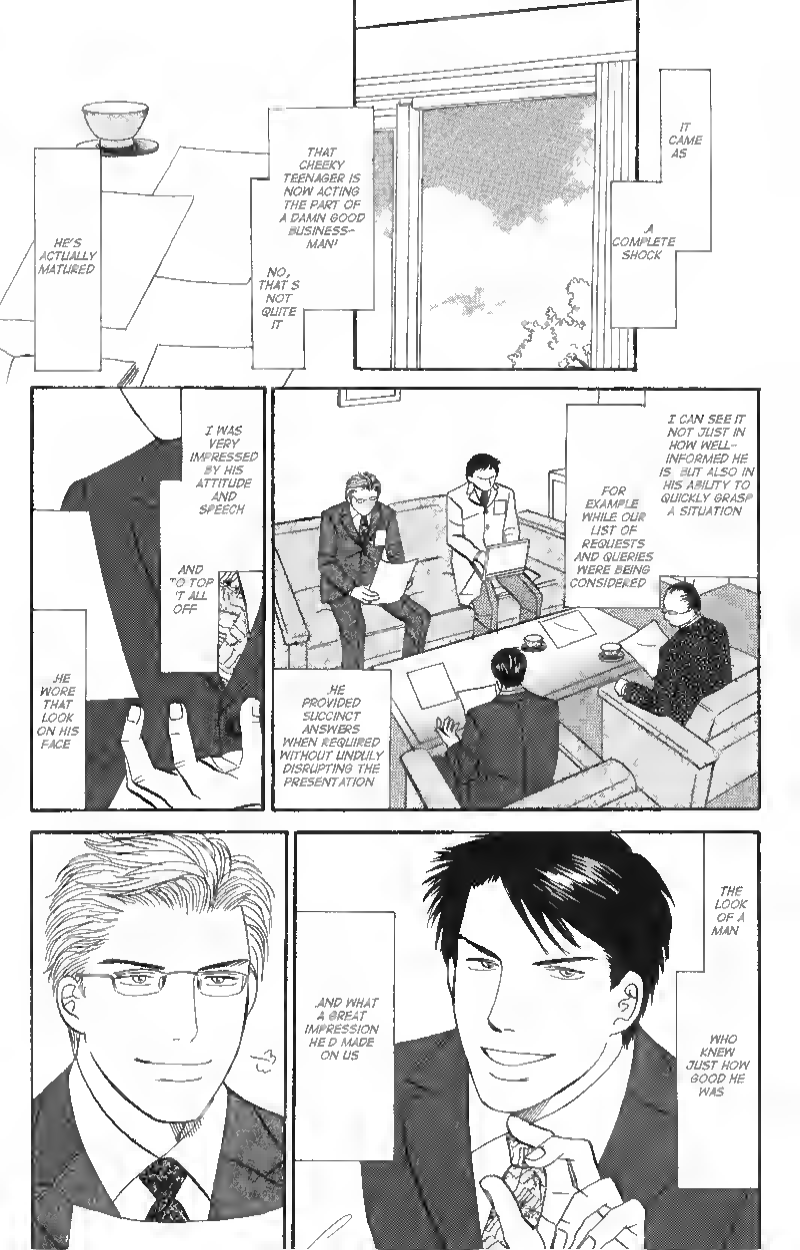
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
I WAS WATCHING THOSE BOYS FROM THE WINDOW OF THE MEN'S ROOM THEY SEEMED TO BE HAVING A LOT OF FUN, SO I COULDN'T RESIST JOINING IN.

YOU'VE BECOME A LOT FASTER ON YOUR FEET, MINATO-SAN.
I'M MATSUMOTO, IN CHARGE OF ANALYSIS AT J.M MANUFACTURING

Seishun no Yamai wa

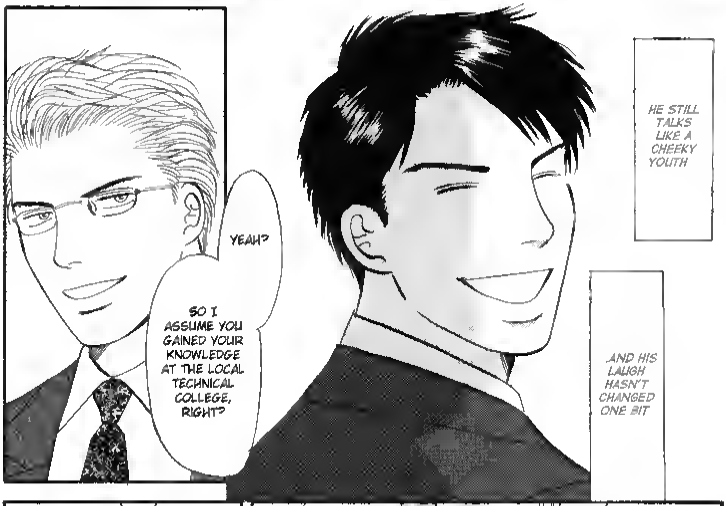
青春の病は2

The Sickness in Youth Chapter 2


HE'S ACTUALLY MATURED
THAT CHEEKY TEENAGER IS NOW ACTING THE PART OF A DAMN GOOD BUSINESS-MAN!
NO, THAT'S NOT QUITE IT
IT CAME AS
A COMPLETE SHOCK
I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY HIS ATTITUDE AND SPEECH
AND "TO TOP IT ALL OFF
HE WORE THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE
HE PROVIDED SUCCINCT ANSWERS WHEN REQUIRED WITHOUT UNDULY DISRUPTING THE PRESENTATION
FOR EXAMPLE WHILE OUR LIST OF REQUESTS AND QUERIES WERE BEING CONSIDERED
I CAN SEE IT NOT JUST IN HOW WELL-INFORMED HE IS BUT ALSO IN HIS ABILITY TO QUICKLY GRASP A SITUATION
AND WHAT A GREAT IMPRESSION HE'D MADE ON US
THE LOOK OF A MAN
WHO KNEW JUST HOW GOOD HE WAS

NO WAY!
WHAT A SURPRISE! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET A CLASSMATE HERE...
ME NEITHER. I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST WHEN I SAW YOUR NAME ON THE COMPANY PAMPHLET
I SAW YOUR GIVEN NAME THERE, PLUS I KNEW MINATO WASN'T A COMMON SURNAME
MY INTERESTS?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY INTERESTS ARE?
BESIDES, CONSIDERING YOUR INTERESTS BACK THEN I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE WORKING IN BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
FROM THAT INCIDENT WITH THE CAMERA!
I WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME BUT YOU WERE A BIT TOO FASCINATED IN MY UH, GEYSER, HUH?
IF I WAS GETTING MY NATURE SHOTS PROCESSED AT SOME SHOP, I'D BE TAKING PHOTOS OF NOTHING BUT GRASS AND INSECTS!
YEAH, I RUDELY INTERRUPTED YOU AT THE TIME!
BUT I STUMBLED UPON THIS CURIOUS CREATURE ENGAGED IN CURIOUS BEHAVIOR, SO I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
THAT'S FOR SURE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU COULDN'T HELP YOURSELF?!
I GUESS WE ENDED UP LEARNING A BIT TOO MUCH ABOUT EACH OTHER!

HE'S NOW A CAPABLE BUSINESS-MAN
BUT WHEN HE'S OUT OF THE OFFICE
I COULDN'T SO MUCH AS TOUCH HIM BACK THEN
SO THIS TIME AROUND I KEEP SMILING WHILE DOING MY BEST TO TALK NORMALLY TO HIM
REALLY INCREDIBLE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS ABLE TO MEET HIM!


HE STILL TALKS LIKE A CHEEKY YOUTH
AND HIS LAUGH HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT
YEAH?
SO I ASSUME YOU GAINED YOUR KNOWLEDGE AT THE LOCAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE, RIGHT?

WELL, I DO HAVE AN APARTMENT IN TOKYO. BUT I STILL PREFER TO LIVE ON-SITE AT THE STAFF QUARTERS FOR HALF THE MONTH
THEN WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU LIVE OUT HERE IN THE SUBURBS?
MY DUTIES AT IMAMOTO LABS CERTAINLY KEEP ME BUSY
IN MY POSITION HERE, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A PROMOTION AND A PAY RISE
SO YOU'RE A RESEARCH SCIENTIST TOO AREN'T YOU?
YEAH, I'D BEEN WORKING IN THE TECHNICAL DIVISION BUT I FOUND THE COMMERCIAL SIDE MORE APPEALING

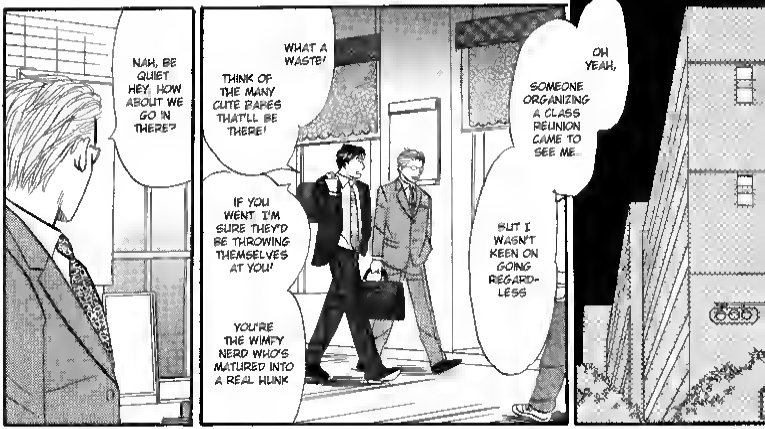
WHOA, WHOA!
IF WE DON'T, THEY'LL NEVER DEAL WITH US AGAIN
Hump
I WILL, BUT ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU TREAT US TO A LAVISH DINNER TO FACILITATE OUR BUSINESS DEALINGS—
YIKES, MINATO-SENSEI! ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THEM OUT TO DINNER?
YEAH ERR
IN THE TIME IT WOULD'VE TAKEN ME TO REACH TOKYO, I FINISH EATING DINNER OVER HERE
HEY, HOW ABOUT EXCHANGING PHONE NUMBERS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR FIFTEEN YEARS
YET I FEEL AS IF IT WERE ONLY YESTERDAY
HE'S STILL THE SAME
HM?
A TEXT MESSAGE?
ISN'T HE THE ONE WHO SET OFF THIS LONGING INSIDE ME?
TONIGHT... I WONDER IF I CAN GET THERE BY NINE P.M.
NO, I CAN'T BLAME HIM
I'VE BEEN DIMLY AWARE OF IT FOR AGES
NOW? GOT IT

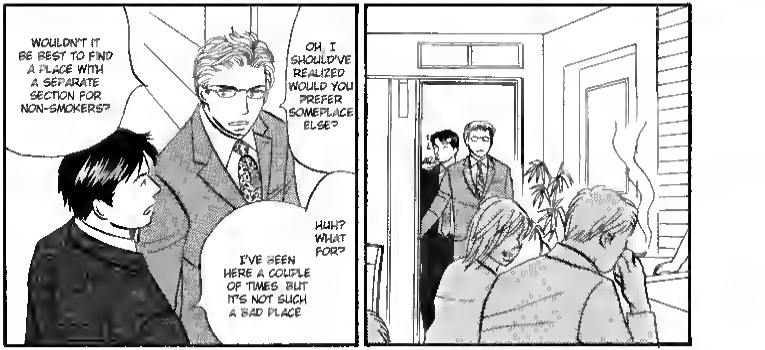
HIS GESTURES
HIS PERSONALITY
I SEEK OUT HIS EYES
HIS HAIR
ALL THIS TIME
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING HIGH AND LOW FOR A GLIMPSE OF HIM
南口駅
MINAMIG
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM AMONG THE RANKS OF MEN I DATE

HMPH!
TALKING IS FINE WHEN YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SAY
I HIRED US A ROOM.
I WAS JUST PUTTING YOU ON
ANYWAY I GUESS YOU WANT TO GET THIS OVER AND DONE WITH BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO RIGHT?
SO DO YOU WANT TO GO TO MY PLACE?
WHY NOT A HOTEL ROOM?
IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG FOR ME TO GET BACK
WHY MEET AT THE TRAIN STATION?
IT FEELS LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL DATE
THIS ARRANGE-MENT HAS LASTED LONGER THAN I EXPECTED
WE'RE GREAT TOGETHER IN BED
AND HE DOESN'T ANNOY ME WITH TEDIOUS DEMANDS
BUT I'M IN NO MOOD TO TALK
I GUESS HE AND I WILL END THIS SOONER OR LATER
PERHAPS I FELT
THE PROFILE OF HIS FACE REMINDED ME A BIT OF MATSUMOTO

ALL I HAVE LEFT
IS NOTHING MORE THAN A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY WHICH LIVES ON IN MY MIND...
I HAVE NO REASON TO CARE ABOUT HIM THAT MUCH
APART FROM THAT
...OF THAT GUY IN THE PRIME OF HIS YOUTH
A TIME WHEN I WAS ALSO IN THE PRIME OF MY YOUTH
BUT EVER SINCE THEN, MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN...

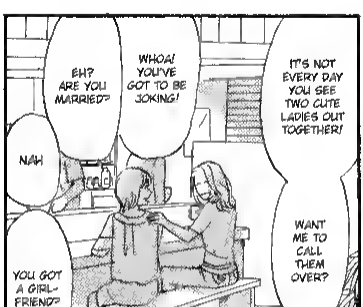
SO THIS TIME WE'RE SEEKING YOUR FIRM'S TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO...
WELL, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST VISITED EACH OF THE TEACHING HOSPITALS...
WHEN REVIEWING THE NEW ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR AFTER NEXT ONWARDS, ALL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA P2 FORMAT.
HOWEVER,
THE ISSUE IS WHETHER THE STANDARD IS STILL WIDELY USED IN JAPAN OR NOT—
H-HOLD ON, MATSUMOTO-SAN!
GO BUY US SOME HOT MEAT BUNS FOR LUNCH
THIS IS TANIGUCHI HE KNOWS OUR TECHNICAL SYSTEMS INSIDE OUT
PLUS I EVEN GET HIM TO RUN ERRANDS FOR ME!
YO TANIGUCHI! COME ON OVER! OVER HERE!
YEAH IT FEELS STRANGE WORKING ALONGSIDE A FORMER CLASS-MATE
I KNOW IT'S RUDE OF ME BUT I CAN'T GET OVER HOW AMAZING IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
HEY, STOP LOOKING AT ME WITH THAT FUNNY SMIRK!
I'LL BE GOING BACK TO TOKYO TONIGHT...
...SO HOW ABOUT DINNER?
YOU MEANIE!
BE QUIET! JUNIOR STAFF DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN!


OH YEAH, SOMEONE ORGANIZING A CLASS REUNION CAME TO SEE ME...
BUT I WASN'T KEEN ON GOING REGARDLESS
WHAT A WASTE!
THINK OF THE MANY CUTE BABES THAT'LL BE THERE!
IF YOU WENT I'M SURE THEY'D BE THROWING THEMSELVES AT YOU!
YOU'RE THE WIMPY NERD WHO'S MATURED INTO A REAL HUNK
NAH, BE QUIET HEY, HOW ABOUT WE GO IN THERE?

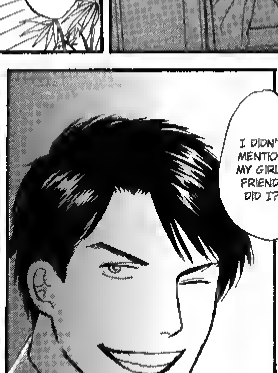

OH, I SHOULD'VE REALIZED WOULD YOU PREFER SOMEPLACE ELSE?
WOULDN'T IT BE BEST TO FIND A PLACE WITH A SEPARATE SECTION FOR NON-SMOKERS?
HUH? WHAT FOR?
I'VE BEEN HERE A COUPLE OF TIMES BUT IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD PLACE

AHH, SO YOU REMEMBERED
SANKYUU...
— BUT I'M ALL RIGHT NOW
SO THOSE ATTACKS ARE A THING OF THE PAST?
YEAH I'VE PUT THEM BEHIND ME COMPLETELY

WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE I EVEN TOOK UP SMOKING
AT THE TIME I WANTED TO LOOK COOL
BUT CLEARLY I WASN'T THAT GOOD AT IT. I'D STOP THE MOMENT I BEGAN COUGHING
THESE DAYS SMOKING ISN'T CONSIDERED COOL ANYMORE SO THAT SUITS ME FINE
I BET YOU NEVER ONCE TRIED SMOKING RIGHT?
CERTAINLY NOT. IT DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD
YOU SMOKED? THEN YOU MUST BE ALL RIGHT
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED HAVE YOU?
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN TELL IF I'VE CHANGED OR NOT?
DO YOU REMEMBER ME THAT WELL?
YOU'RE THE GUY WHO LITERALLY CAUGHT ME WITH MY PANTS DOWN, RIGHT?
VERY MUCH SO

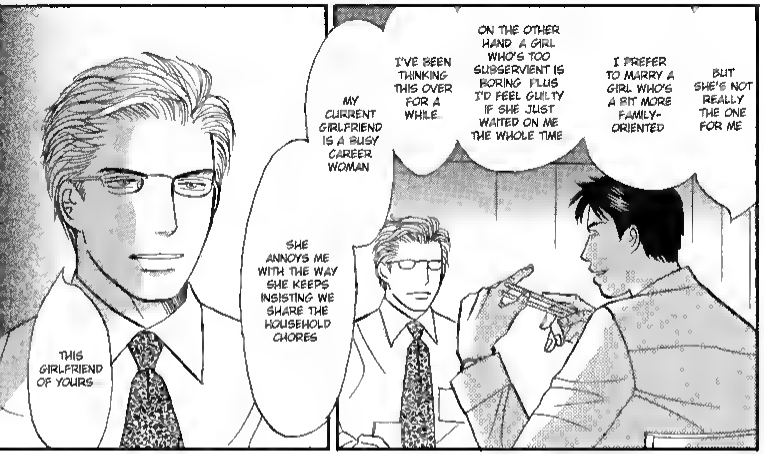

EH? ARE YOU MARRIED?
WHOA! YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING!
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU SEE TWO CUTE LADIES OUT TOGETHER!
NAH
WANT ME TO CALL THEM OVER?
YOU GOT A GIRL-FRIEND?

HEY, CHECK OUT THOSE TWO OVER THERE
GEEZ, ENOUGH! DON'T BRING THAT UP ANYMORE!


I DIDN'T MENTION MY GIRL-FRIEND DID I?

WHICH REMINDS ME.
NO

IN THAT CASE YOU SHOULD GO AND MARRY YOUR GIRL-FRIEND
PEOPLE ARE MARRYING TOO LATE NOWADAYS AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED THERE'S NO PRESSURE TO SETTLE DOWN UNTIL YOU TURN 35 OR 36
I'M QUITE EAGER TO MARRY AND SETTLE DOWN
BUT HANG ON!
THEN THAT'S EVEN MORE REASON NOT TO PICK UP STRANGE GIRLS


THIS GIRLFRIEND OF YOURS...
MY CURRENT GIRLFRIEND IS A BUSY CAREER WOMAN
SHE ANNOYS ME WITH THE WAY SHE KEEPS INSISTING WE SHARE THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES
I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS OVER FOR A WHILE.
ON THE OTHER HAND A GIRL WHO'S TOO SUBSERVIENT IS BORING. PLUS I'D FEEL GUILTY IF SHE JUST WAITED ON ME THE WHOLE TIME
I PREFER TO MARRY A GIRL WHO'S A BIT MORE FAMILY-ORIENTED
BUT SHE'S NOT REALLY THE ONE FOR ME

UH OH! THEY'RE LEAVING GEEZ. WHAT A SHAME. THAT GIRL WITH LONG HAIR IS JUST MY TYPE! SHOULD WE MAKE OUR MOVE?
I'LL PASS THANKS
I'D KEEP IT DISCREET ONCE I'M MARRIED. I CAN STILL PLAY AROUND...
WHY WOULDN'T I CONSIDER A FLING WITH HER?
BUT SAY A REALLY HOT-LOOKING FEMALE ENTERED THE PICTURE
WELL. YEAH. I AM, BUT
AT THE MOMENT I DO HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER.
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH HER?

ANYWAY I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THEM.
SINCE I'M GAY

ONE DAY
AWW. THEY'RE GONE.
NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW.
HEY HANG ON' HANG ON'
YOU HAD ME FOOLED FOR A SEC WITH THAT DEADPAN LOOK! STOP IT!
YOU LOOK CREEPY!
EH?
I'M HOMO-SEXUAL I DON'T PLAY AROUND WITH GIRLS

ONE FINE DAY
WHEN MATSU-MOTO FALLS IN LOVE
I'M SURE IT WILL BE WITH A SWEET AND LOVELY LADY

AND SHE WILL LOVE AND CHERISH MATSU-MOTO IN RETURN
DESPITE ALL THAT HE WILL LOVE HER DEEPLY HE'LL LOVE HER WITH ALL HIS HEART
MATSUMOTO WILL CARE FOR HER VERY MUCH
EVEN IF SHE WASN'T GREAT AT EXPRESSING HERSELF BECAUSE SHE STAMMERED AND BECAME TONGUE-TIED

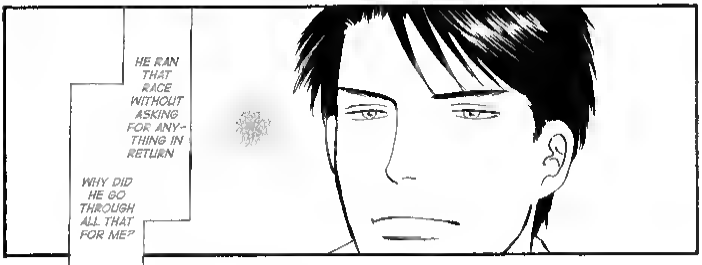
A BOY WHO WAS A BIT NAIVE AND SMELLED OF PURE SWEAT
OF A GUY WHO MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN MY VERY FIRST CRUSH
MY ETERNALLY BEAUTIFUL MEMORY
IS MERELY THE FANTASY OF A GUY LONGING FOR THE DAYS OF HIS YOUTH
IMAGINING HE MIGHT FALL IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER MAN

I REALLY SHOULD'VE KNOWN
HE'D TURN OUT LIKE EVERY OTHER TYPICAL MALE

HEY... MIKA?
IS THAT YOU, MIKA? WHAT'S GOING ON?
AH!
SO YOU'RE BACK THANKS FOR NOTHING
I CAME OVER TO RETURN THAT DVD WE HIRED...
HM?
MM MM HMM!
W-WHAT'S WITH THAT TONE OF VOICE? THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS OFFER TO HELP TIDY THE PLACE FOR ME!
WELL, LATELY—
.....
YOUR APARTMENT'S A REAL MESS, YOU KNOW. ARE YOU GOING TO TIDY IT UP?
SO THAT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU DROPPED BY?
SLIT WHEN WAS I GOING TO FIND TIME TO DO IT?
YOU COULD'VE RETURNED IT ON YOUR WAY HOME.
SO AREN'T YOU GOING TO CLEAN UP MY PLACE?
I SEE
...I'D ONLY CONSIDER CLEANING UP AFTER A MAN IF I FELT HE WAS GORGEOUS ENOUGH TO BE WORTH THE EFFORT

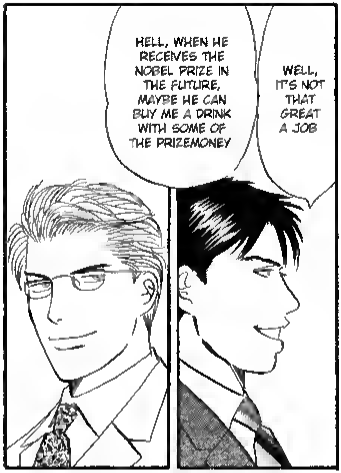
NOPE.
NOW LOOK HERE!
W-WHAT'S WITH HER?!
I WASN'T GOING TO MAKE HER CLEAN MY PLACE FOR REAL!
...WITHOUT HAVING TO ARGUE LIKE THAT?
I MEAN, WHY CAN'T WE GET ALONG NICELY...
I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TALKING TO HER ANYMORE, I SWEAR.
ガチャ kachik
とぼとぼ trudge trudge

AHH
ドカッ PLOP
WHY CAN'T I GET THROUGH TO HER?

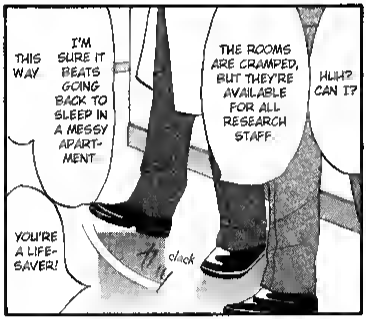

HE RAN THAT RACE WITHOUT ASKING FOR ANY-THING IN RETURN
WHY DID HE GO THROUGH ALL THAT FOR ME?

SINCE YOU WERE DELAYED I BEGAN REVIEWING THESE SPECIFICA-TIONS
ERR Y-YES, BUT...
EXCUSE ME FOR BEING LATE BUT I WAS VISITING SEVERAL OF THE HOSPITALS TODAY OUR PROJECT IS PROCEEDING VERY WELL
AH, MATSU-MOTO-SAN
HELLO! SORRY I'M LATE!
kachak
IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DATA HERE AT ONCE—
Y-YES, ALL GOOD!
YO TANIGUCHI! IT'S ALL GOOD, RIGHT?
SHOVE
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE COME IN HERE SIMPLY TO THROW YOUR WEIGHT AROUND!
I MAY HAVE FAULTS OF MY OWN
BUT SEEING YOU ATTEMPT TO COVER UP YOUR OVERSIGHT IS QUITE A DISAPPOINT-MENT
HONESTLY IT ALL LOOKED GOOD! RIGHT, TANIGUCHI?
I-I SEE!
I FOUND IT EASY ENOUGH TO MAKE SENSE OF THE DETAILS LIKE YOU SAID TANIGUCHI-SAN IS INDEED AN EXPERT IN HIS FIELD
GOOD GRIEF!
HUH? YOU REALLY WANT HIM TO EXPLAIN THINGS? HE'S NOT THAT GOOD ACTUALLY HE'S PRETTY UNRELIABLE
AHH! A-ALL RIGHT!
YOU WERE JUST ABOUT TO CONTINUE EXPLAINING WHERE YOU LEFT OFF, WEREN'T YOU TANIGUCHI-SAN?
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ABSENT
YOUR SUBORDINATE HERE IS PERFECTLY ABLE TO LEAD A TECHNICAL DISCUSSION!

glance
HOW COME HE'S SUDDENLY SPEAKING WITH A LOT MORE CONFI-DENCE?
HE'S GOT A NERVOUS STAMMER AND
HM?
AHH!
COME TO THINK OF IT
EVEN BACK THEN
YOU WON RESPECT FOR KEEPING TO YOUR WORD
WE ALL SAW YOU AS A TRUST-WORTHY GUY
EVEN THE GRUDGING RESPECT OF MY ROWDY MATES


HELL, WHEN HE RECEIVES THE NOBEL PRIZE IN THE FUTURE, MAYBE HE CAN BUY ME A DRINK WITH SOME OF THE PRIZEMONEY
WELL, IT'S NOT THAT GREAT A JOB

SO YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS JOB AHEAD OF HIM?
HE'S ALWAYS BEING COERCED INTO DOING ODD JOBS THAT DON'T CARRY MUCH RESPONSIBILITY BUT WITH THE CONFIDENCE HE'S GAINED THIS TIME AROUND—
GOOD! TANIGUCHI DID AN EXCELLENT JOB WORKING WITH YOU!
BUT HE REALLY IS INCREDIBLY SMART


THIS WAY
I'M SURE IT BEATS GOING BACK TO SLEEP IN A MESSY APARTMENT
THE ROOMS ARE CRAMPED, BUT THEY'RE AVAILABLE FOR ALL RESEARCH STAFF.
HUH? CAN I?
YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER!
click

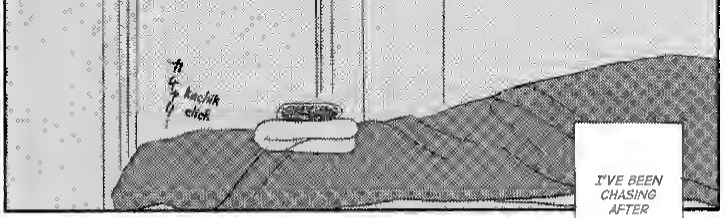
THEN HOW ABOUT STAYING THE NIGHT IN THE STAFF QUARTERS HERE?
AHH THIS IS BAD
CAN I HAIL A TAXI OUT HERE?
I'M NOT SURE WHETHER I'LL BE IN TIME FOR THE LAST TRAIN

THE COLOR'S A BIT BRIGHT, THOUGH
I WONDER IF THESE WILL DO

HERE'S A T-SHIRT TO SLEEP IN... AND A CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR.
I SHOULD HAVE A NEW PAIR IN HERE.
HE DIDN'T BRING A SPARE SET OF CLOTHES
—SO I'LL HAVE TO LEND HIM SOME OF MINE

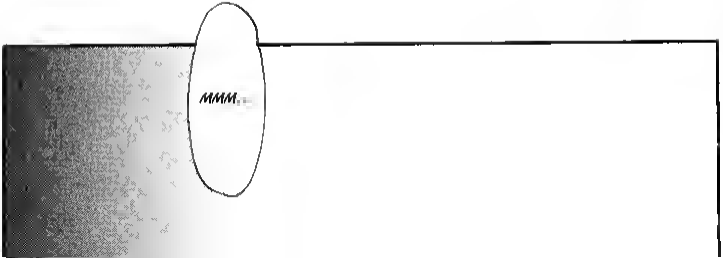
OH!
ZZZ
MATSU...
knock
knock
knock
YO MATSU-MOTO! I'M COMING IN!
ZZZ
HELL WHAT AM I DOING?! NO ONE ASKED ME TO TAKE THEM OFF!
ZZZ
YOU KNOW, I WOULDN'T EVEN GO THIS FAR FOR A BOYFRIEND ONLY SOMEONE IN LOVE WOULD BOTHER TAKING OFF YOUR SOCKS FOR YOU...
...AND I'M DOING THIS FOR A STRAIGHT GUY
GEEZ IT'S NO USE
BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE A SHOWER!
ZZZ
snuggle
UH... MMM...

HMPH!
YOU'VE MATURED INTO ONE DAMN ATTRACTIVE GUY.
I KNOW.
THAT YOU AND I VIEW THE PAST THROUGH DIFFERENT EYES.
kachik



I'VE BEEN CHASING AFTER REMNANTS OF THE OLD YOU
NO, THAT'S NOT IT

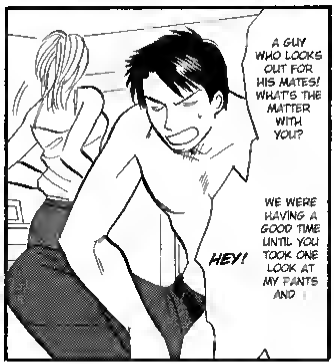
I WAS AFTER THE GUY WHO SYMBOLIZED MY YOUTH

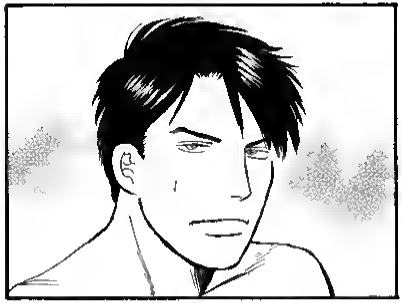

MMM...

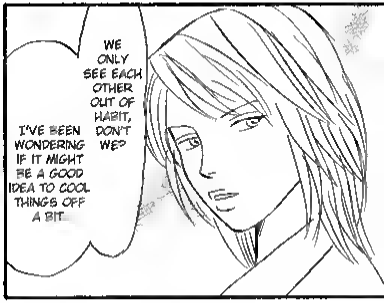
EH?
AND DOES THIS FRIEND OF YOURS HAVE LONG HAIR?
N-NOW WAIT A MINUTE! IT WAS A MAN! MY FRIENDS ARE ALL MEN!
HE LET ME BORROW THEM WHEN I SPENT THE NIGHT AT WORK!
WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD EVEN LEND YOU HIS SPARE UNDER-PANTS?

EH?
HOLD ON.
WHAT'S WITH THOSE UNDER-PANTS?
YEAH A FRIEND LENT THEM TO ME
YOU DON'T OWN SUCH FLASHY TRUNKS!

DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME AT ALL?
COME OFF IT, MIKA!
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M LEAVING.
SHE'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE!
Is I do say so myself
THINGS JUST DON'T FEEL RIGHT BETWEEN US


A GUY WHO LOOKS OUT FOR HIS MATES! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
WE WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME UNTIL YOU TOOK ONE LOOK AT MY PANTS AND
HEY!




WE ONLY SEE EACH OTHER OUT OF HABIT, DON'T WE?
I'VE BEEN WONDERING IF IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO COOL THINGS OFF A BIT.

—KEEPING HER SATISFIED WILL BE A PAIN IN THE NECK.
BUT EVEN IF I DO
—SO I BETTER FIND MYSELF A NEW GIRL-FRIEND FOR REAL!
ONCE WE COOL THINGS OFF, I SWEAR SHE'LL END UP DITCHING ME.
trudge trudge
RIGHT NOW? BUT IT'S NO PROBLEM!
HUH? MY UNDER-PANTS?
WHAT?
YEAH, I'M AT MY TOKYO APARTMENT BUT—
AH... MATSU-MOTO?
YEAH, YEAH
HELLO?
BRR BRR
BRR BRR
YEAH, SURE
YOU KNOW MY ADDRESS? YEAH, TH-IT'S IT.
MAHAHA! WELL, SINCE YOU'RE COMING ALL THIS WAY, HOW ABOUT GOING FOR A DRINK?

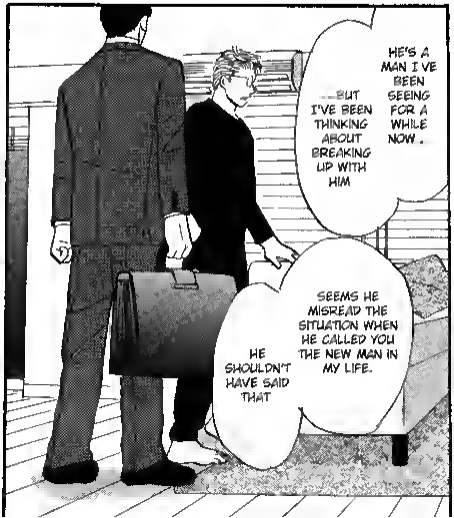
IT'S UP TO YOU YOU CAN BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE
DO YOU CARE WHETHER I BELIEVE YOU OR NOT?
HE'S EVEN GOT HIS OWN GIRLFRIEND I MET UP WITH HIM THROUGH WORK WE HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR 15 YEARS
LOOK HE'S A STRAIGHT GUY...
MUST BE A SPECIAL PIECE OF ASS. HUH? YOU SLEEP WITH ONE GUY AFTER ANOTHER
IS SOMEONE COMING OVER?
YEAH AN OLD CLASSMATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL
I ASSUMED YOU'D BE LEAVING SOON ANYWAY
slam バタン
NOW PISS OFF AND DIE!
WHATEVER. IF YOUR ASS GETS LONELY AGAIN, JUST GIVE ME A CALL
YEAH I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND
JUST WAIT IN FRONT OF THE DOOR FOR ME!
HUH? YOU'RE HERE ALREADY?
W-WAIT A SEC! FIRST I HAVE TO OPEN THE DEADLOCK!
ko ding dong
I'LL LET SOME AIR CIRCULATE THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM FOR A WHILE

clack
SO IS THIS HIM?
SINCE YOU FELT LIKE A DRINK I BROUGHT OVER A BOTTLE OF—
SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE! I'VE BEEN BUSY TIDYING UP!
WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE? WHY IS HE FUSSING ABOUT LIKE A WOMAN?
BUT I'M THE LAST PERSON WHO'LL CARE IF HIS PLACE IS A MESS!
IS HE...
...THE NEW MAN IN YOUR LIFE?

HUH?
DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING TO STAND IN YOUR WAY
I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT KIND OF MAN YOU WERE
I THINK I'LL TAKE BACK THAT OFFER I MADE EARLIER
DON'T BOTHER CALLING ME AGAIN
EH?
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WHY DID HE CALL ME THE NEW MAN IN YOUR LIFE?
WHY WAS HE TALKING ABOUT US AS IF WE WERE A HOMO COUPLE?
AHAHAHA! I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO KNOW! I SURE AS HELL DON'T WANT TO BE LUMPED WITH THAT LOT! IT CREEPS ME OUT!
SO WHO WAS HE? WHO WAS THAT GUY JUST NOW?
I TRIED TO TELL YOU

I'M GAY. SO NOW YOU KNOW...
I REALLY AM GAY.

WHAT?!


HE'S A MAN I'VE BEEN SEEING FOR A WHILE NOW...
...BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT BREAKING UP WITH HIM
SEEMS HE MISREAD THE SITUATION WHEN HE CALLED YOU THE NEW MAN IN MY LIFE.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT

HANG ON!
HANG ON A MINUTE! SO I'M MEANT TO BE THE NEW MAN IN YOUR LIFE?
NO, YOU'RE NOT. I'M NOT ABOUT TO MAKE MOVE ON YOU.
I DON'T THINK ABOUT YOU IN THAT WAY.
GIVE ME A BREAK!
I-I WAS SO WRONG...
...ABOUT YOU.
SO YOU'RE A HOMO FOR REAL?
HAVE YOU BEEN ONE ALL ALONG?
SO BACK WHEN YOU CAUGHT ME WITH YOUR CAMERA...
A PHOTO
BACK WHEN YOU TOOK...
...A PHOTO OF ME...

I'M SORRY BUT...
FROM NOW ON...
.....
KEEP AWAY FROM ME...
pull
THUNK

SO FROM NOW ON, I'M TO KEEP AWAY FROM YOU, AM I?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WALK OUT OF HERE SO EASILY?

Seishun no Yamai wa

青春の病は3

The Sickness in Youth Chapter 3

GRAB
whack
LET ME GO, WILL YOU?
I INVITED YOU OVER, DIDN'T I?
AND YOU CAME RIGHT IN
YOU'VE GOT ... TO BE JOKING!
AS THE OLD SAYING GOES...
I'M LIKE A MOTH DRAWN TO THE FLAME
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'VE BECOME SO WEAK MATSUMOTO!
I GUESS IT'S INEVITABLE
ALL YOU DO NOW IS WORK AND SLEEP
I'M NO LONGER THE WIMP I WAS BEFORE
I'VE GAINED CONFIDENCE IN MY BODY
SHALL I SHOW YOU THE GYM WORKOUTS I'VE BEEN DOING?

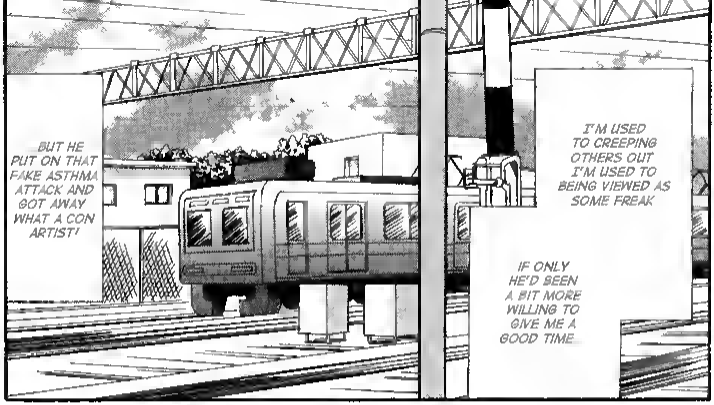
ONCE YOUR WORLD WAS OFF-LIMITS TO GUYS LIKE ME. BUT NOW...
COUGH
UGH!
AHH
OH...
COUGH
hack
hack
COUGH
flomp

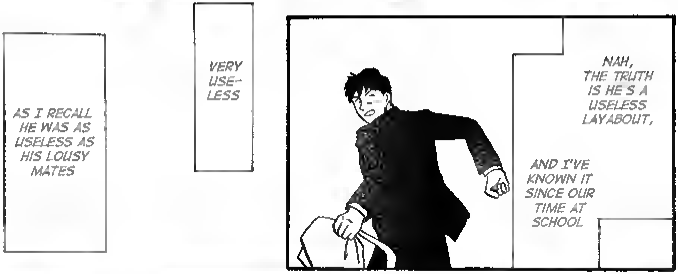
kachik
カチャリ
slam
バタン
I WISH I COULD GO BACK IN TIME

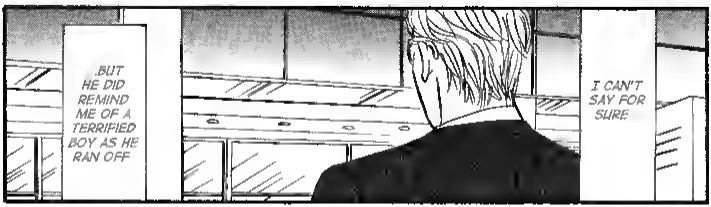
BUT HOW FAR BACK DO I WANT TO GO?
BEFORE I OUTED MYSELF?
BEFORE THE MOMENT I JUMPED ON HIM?
THE TIME OF OUR REUNION?
OR THE MOMENT BEFORE?
BACK TO OUR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL?
IT'S NOT AS IF I LOVED HIM ABOVE ALL OTHERS
EVEN SO,
I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT I'VE LOST SOMETHING IMPORTANT

clack
clack
I'LL...
I'LL RUN IT!
I'LL RUN THE 1500 METERS!

YES, THAT'S RIGHT
SINCE THE THIRD LOT OF TEST RESULTS WILL BE OUT TOMORROW WE'LL PREPARE THE NEXT SAMPLE...
WHO'S OVER-SEEING THE TESTS?
MATSU-MOTO'S TAKING CARE OF IT
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN MATSUMOTO-SAN AROUND THIS WEEK
YES, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE ON-SITE TEST OPERATIONS HERE
OF COURSE, IF YOU'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO HIM HE'S ALWAYS AVAILABLE BY PHONE
NO, THAT'S FINE
I WANTED TO FIND OUT HOW HE'D FACE ME AT WORK
IN THAT CASE, I'LL PAY HIM A VISIT AT HIS HEADQUARTERS PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK IN MY ABSENCE
...BUT HE'S PRETTY GOOD AT RUNNING AWAY


...BUT HE PUT ON THAT FAKE ASTHMA ATTACK AND GOT AWAY WHAT A CON ARTIST!
I'M USED TO CREEPING OTHERS OUT I'M USED TO BEING VIEWED AS SOME FREAK
IF ONLY HE'D BEEN A BIT MORE WILLING TO GIVE ME A GOOD TIME...


AS I RECALL HE WAS AS USELESS AS HIS LOUSY MATES
VERY USE-LESS
NAH, THE TRUTH IS HE'S A USELESS LAYABOUT,
AND I'VE KNOWN IT SINCE OUR TIME AT SCHOOL


...BUT HE DID REMIND ME OF A TERRIFIED BOY AS HE RAN OFF
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE

knochik
カチャ

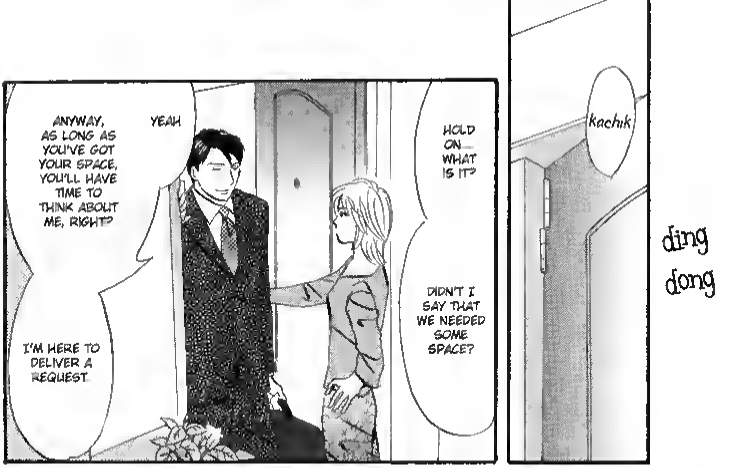
HIS MEETING IS OVER, SO HE'LL BE MORE THAN WILLING TO SEE YOU NOW MINATO-SAN
WHAT ABOUT ME? CAN'T ONE OF YOUR OFFICIALS SEE ME TODAY?
WELCOME TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF J M MANUFACTUR-ING. PLEASE EXCUSE THE DELAY

SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING.
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE I PAID A VISIT TO YOUR FIRM.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY MOST HUMBLE APOLOGIES

scrape
I WAS TOLD AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
YES, I THINK IT'S PROCEEDING EVEN MORE SMOOTHLY THAN THE TESTS
LATER I'LL SUBMIT A DEFINITE SCHEDULE INCLUDING BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR YOUR APPROVAL.
clock
I APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS YOU'VE MADE SO FAR.
I'D LIKE TO LODGE A REQUEST FOR YOUR BODY.
IF THERE IS ANY PROPOSAL OR REQUEST MINATO-SAN WISHES TO LODGE BEFORE THEN—
MINATO!
I ADMIT I BEHAVED BADLY THE OTHER DAY
snap

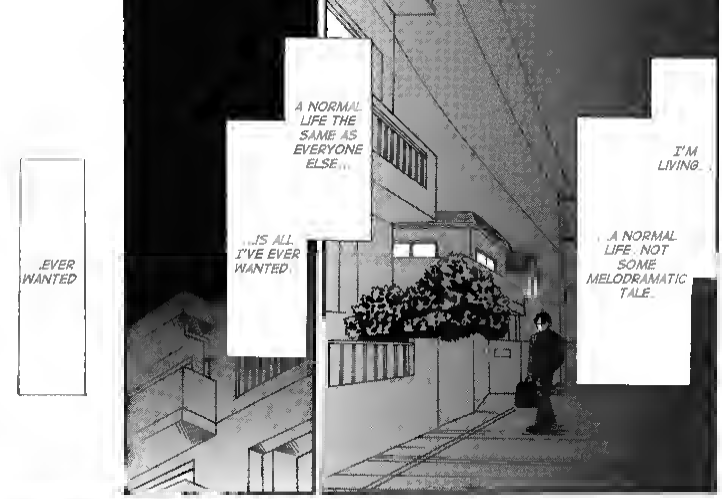
SCRAPE
...THEN I GUESS I OFFENDED YOU. SO I'M SORRY
SOMEHOW THE WHOLE SITUATION CREEPED ME OUT AND I ENDED UP SAYING TOO MUCH...
BUT COME ON! YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME! DO YOU NORMALLY OUT YOURSELF LIKE THIS TO OTHERS?
YOU DIDN'T JUST COME OUT OF THE CLOSET! YOU LAUNCHED A FULL-SCALE ATTACK!
JUST BECAUSE I FIND IT A TURN-OFF DOESN'T MAKE ME HOMOPHOBIC RIGHT?
BUT EVEN AS A JOKE, THE WAY YOU POUNCED ON ME FELT LIKE A SERIOUS ASSAULT...
THEN YOU'RE LUCKY YOU CAN FAKE AN ASTHMA ATTACK ANYTIME YOU WANT
REST EASY.
AFTER THAT STUNT YOU PULLED, I WON'T BE POUNCING ANYWHERE NEAR YOU
NO, WAIT...

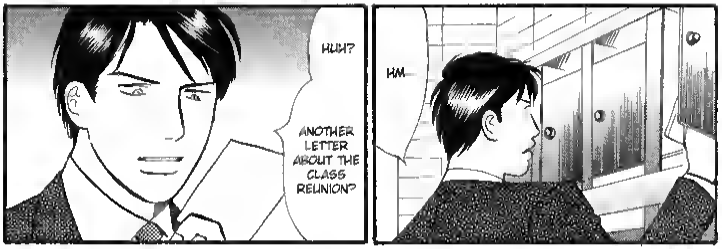
MATSU-MOTO!
NO
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY
THE OTHER NIGHT...
...WAS A PRANK THAT I TOOK TOO FAR.
AHA! THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE THE ONE AT FAULT!
I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS ABOUT TO BE DONE OVER FOR REAL!
I WOULD'VE PULLED ANY STUNT TO GET OUT OF THERE!
YEAH,
IT WAS A SMART MOVE.
MY WAY OF LIFE ISN'T EASY.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT GETTING INVOLVED.


kachik
ding dong
HOLD ON— WHAT IS IT?
DIDN'T I SAY THAT WE NEEDED SOME SPACE?
YEAH
ANYWAY, AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT YOUR SPACE, YOU'LL HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT ME, RIGHT?
I'M HERE TO DELIVER A REQUEST.

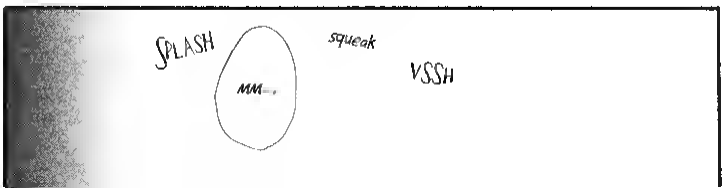
WILL YOU MARRY ME AND BE MY WIFE?

I'LL THINK IT OVER, ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.
SANKYUU.
GOOD NIGHT.


...EVER WANTED
A NORMAL LIFE THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE...
...IS ALL I'VE EVER WANTED.
I'M LIVING...
...A NORMAL LIFE. NOT SOME MELODRAMATIC TALE.

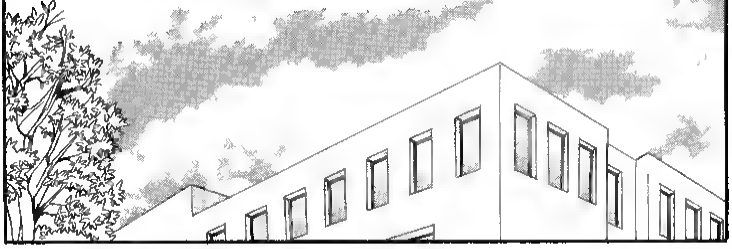

HUH?
ANOTHER LETTER ABOUT THE CLASS REUNION?
HM...

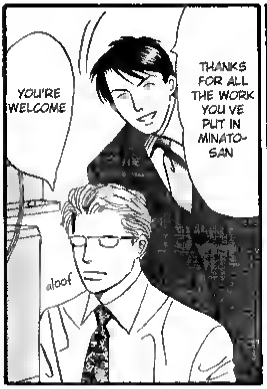
VSSH

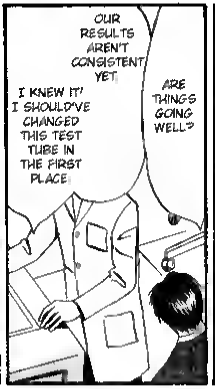

SPLASH
MM...
squeak
VSSH

OOH.
huff
huff
SPLISH
.....
EVEN AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS OF BEING HOMOSEXUAL
I STILL DIG UP THAT OLD MEMORY WHEN I'M IN NEED OF WANK MATERIAL

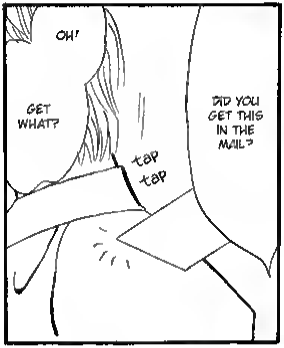
I ENDED UP HURTING HIM
I WANTED TO REASSURE AND COMFORT HIM
HE HAD THE LOOK OF A VULNERABLE BOY
I DO REMEMBER THE GUY HE IS NOW, DON'T I?
WHY USE AN OLD MEMORY?
IT'S TOO LATE!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE DAMAGED THE FRIENDSHIP WE HAD GOING...
...OUT OF LOVE?
FOOL!
...BUT EVEN IF I DID DAMAGE IT...
MY MEMORY OF HIM REMAINS INTACT
...EVEN NOW
EVEN NOW—




THANKS FOR ALL THE WORK YOU'VE PUT IN MINATO-SAN
YOU'RE WELCOME
aloof

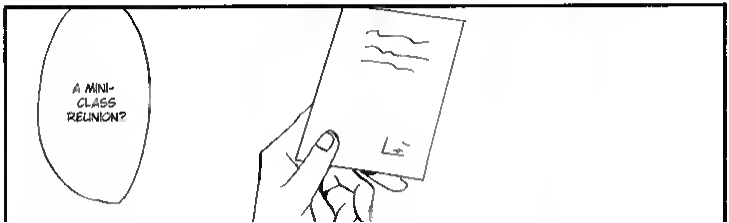

OUR RESULTS AREN'T CONSISTENT YET.
I KNEW IT! I SHOULD'VE CHANGED THIS TEST TUBE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
ARE THINGS GOING WELL?

THANKS FOR COMING OVER TO HELP US OUT.
AH, MATSUMOTO-SAN! WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE
HELLO THERE!

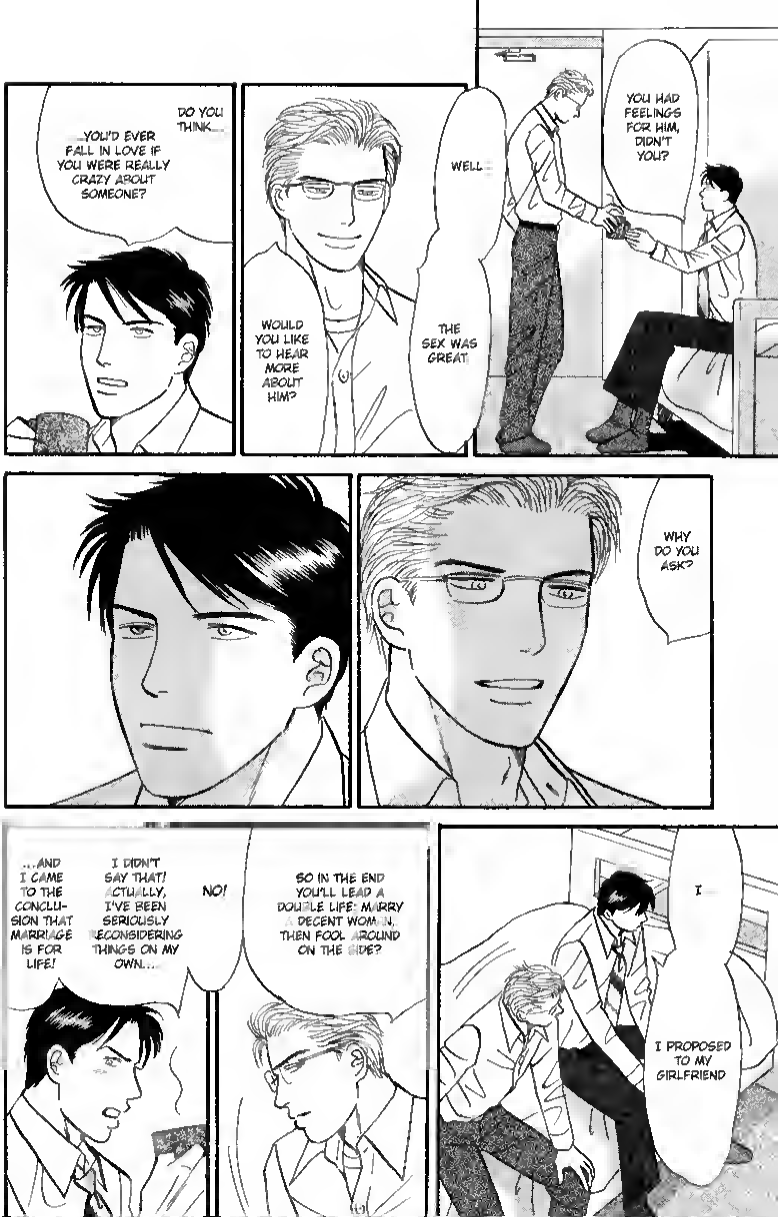

OH!
GET WHAT?
tap tap
DID YOU GET THIS IN THE MAIL?

.....

I'LL BE STAYING HERE
ARE YOU GOING BACK TO TOKYO TONIGHT?
aloof


A MINI-CLASS REUNION?

whomp
I'VE ONLY BEEN TO LAST YEAR'S CLASS REUNION.
I'M GOING AGAIN AND YOU'VE GOT TO COME TOO!
LOTS OF OUR CLASSMATES TURNED UP AT OUR OLD SCHOOL! WE HAD A BLAST!
HEY, IT'S NOT AS IF I'VE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH MY CLASSMATES FROM JUNIOR HIGH!
BUT WITH BIRTHRATES DECLINING THESE DAYS AREN'T PRIVATE GET-TOGETHERS LIKE THIS BECOMING POPULAR?
SURE, I MISS THE GOOD OLD DAYS.
BUT IN REALITY, I'VE GOT NO TIES TO ANY OF MY FORMER SCHOOLS.
I DON'T EVEN GET THE PURPOSE OF THESE REUNIONS
I'LL PASS
flick
NONE OF THEM WILL REMEMBER ME
AND I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT MY CLASSMATES EITHER
WHY DO YOU ASK?
THINGS FIZZLED OUT AS USUAL.
HE TOLD ME HE WANTED A CLEAN BREAK.
THAT EVENING I TURNED UP... DID YOU GET TO MAKE UP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND LATER?


DO YOU THINK...
...YOU'D EVER FALL IN LOVE IF YOU WERE REALLY CRAZY ABOUT SOMEONE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT HIM?
WELL...
THE SEX WAS GREAT.
YOU HAD FEELINGS FOR HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
...AND I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT MARRIAGE IS FOR LIFE!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT! ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN SERIOUSLY RECONSIDERING THINGS ON MY OWN...
NO!
SO IN THE END YOU'LL LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE: MARRY A DECENT WOMAN, THEN FOOL AROUND ON THE SIDE?
I
I PROPOSED TO MY GIRLFRIEND

I BELIEVE IF YOU TREAT IT AS A LIFELONG COMMITMENT, WHY THINK OF ANYONE ELSE?
IT'S LIKE THE TIME WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER, AND LOVE MEANT
...FALLING FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE A PERFECT MATCH FOR ME
COULD SOME GUY FIT THE BILL FOR YOU?
A-A GUY?
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
clink
コト
YOU WERE MY FIRST CRUSH
I THOUGHT I'D GIVEN MYSELF AWAY BY NOW...
.....
ARE YOU FOR REAL?

I ALWAYS PREFERRED THE ATHLETIC TYPES...
...WHO COULD SPRINT LIKE GRACEFUL GAZELLES.
THE MUSCLES HERE ON YOUR ARMS, AND AROUND YOUR BUTT ARE THE BEST.
OOPS! SORRY, DID THAT CREEP YOU OUT?
NO...
YOU TOLD ME TO KEEP MY DISTANCE.
YOU LOOKED AT ME AS IF YOU'D SEEN A MONSTER.
BUT I DID APOLOGIZE
YET YOU RAN OUT ON ME!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
I EVEN RAN THE 1500 METERS FOR YOU!
DO YOU THINK I COULD RUN IT FASTER THAN YOU NOW
HMM?
EVEN TODAY YOU'D BE A FAIRLY GOOD SPRINTER, RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT FIRM THIGH MUSCLES.
GET AWAY FROM ME, MATSU-MOTO!
WHY DON'T YOU RUN AWAY?

SO YOU THINK YOU OWE IT TO ME TO STAY
YOU'RE GUILTY ABOUT THE WAY YOU TREATED ME
FURTHER UP HERE YOU'VE GOT A BIT OF FLAB...
BUT YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE LIKE A BOY WITH A NOBLE SENSE OF JUSTICE
...THAT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT
IT MAKES ME SO MAD
THAT'S...
BASH
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU HOMO BASTARD!

IT MAKES ME SICK!
I'M NOT THAT WAY, I SWEAR!!
ME TOO
I'M NOT THAT WAY EITHER
SHOVE

I WAS INTO GIRLS LIKE ANY NORMAL GUY UNTIL I SAW YOU THAT DAY AFTER SCHOOL...
...UNTIL I SAW YOU JERKING OFF OVER THERE!
GOTOU IN CLASS TWO BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL—— SHE'S THE GIRL I LIKED! I WAS GOING TO ASK HER OUT ONCE I GOT INTO UNIVERSITY!
BECAUSE I LIKED GOTOU!
SO IT'S YOUR FAULT I TURNED OUT LIKE THIS!

FACE UP TO THE CONSE-QUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS, MATSU-MOTO
WHY ELSE DID YOU STAY BEHIND?
WHY ELSE COME ALL THE WAY INTO MY ROOM?
MATSUMOTO
YOU FEEL YOU OWE IT TO ME... DON'T YOU?
BECAUSE YOU WERE THE GUY WHO SUCCEEDED IN MAKING A HOMO BASTARD OUT OF ME...
MAKE IT UP TO ME. GIVE ME A GOOD TIME JUST THIS ONCE...
...AND THEN WE'LL BE EVEN. WE WON'T OWE EACH OTHER ANYTHING.

……
……

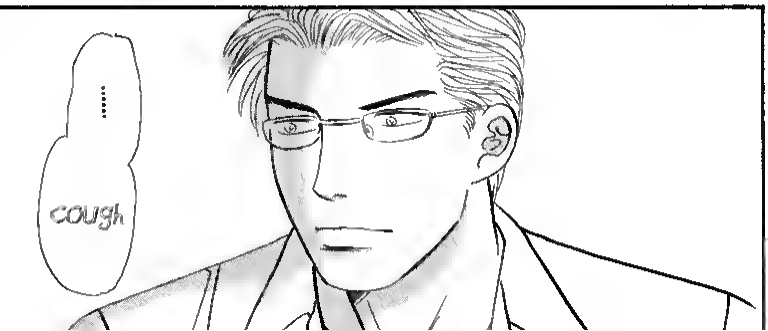
.....
.....
AAH!

RATTLE
creak
creak
shudder
twitch
DRIP
SPURT
SPURT

huff
huff
huff
CAN YOU...
MATSUMOTO

CAN YOU MAKE ANY SENSE OF THIS?
WHEN...
WHEN I...

WHENEVER I HAD ANY DOUBTS...
cough
...ABOUT MY ABILITY TO BREATHE PROPERLY...


.....
cough

I...
I...
MATSUMOTO
gasp
AH...
gasp
.....

Seishun no Yamai wa

青春の病は4

The Sickness in Youth Chapter 4

ARE YOU HAVING AN ATTACK?
MATSU-MOTO...
Dash
AU
"!
SHIT!
MUST'VE LEFT THEM IN MY OTHER BRIEFCASE...
SO YOU...
—WERE ON MEDS THE WHOLE TIME?
gasp
gasp
MATSU-MOTO...
rustle
rustle

DAMN. TODAY OF ALL DAYS...
I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!
DON'T
cough
cough
I'LL GET YOU WATER!
WATER...
I CAN'T.. DRINK...
WE'LL GO TO A MEDICAL CENTER, MATSUMOTO!
IT'S A BIT FAR, BUT IT'S OPEN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!
NO!
cough
cough
wheeze
I DON'T WANT MY FIRM TO FIND OUT.
MINA...TO!
gasp
gasp
MATSUMOTO...
SQUEEZE

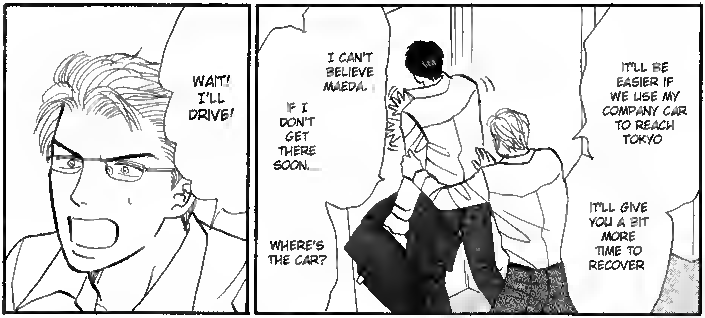
.....
gasp
GET OVER IT FOR ME..
I BEG OF YOU!
.....
gasp
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
CALM DOWN, AND YOU'LL GET OVER THIS ATTACK SOON.
I BEG OF YOU...
gasp
gasp

PPP

PPP

HEY!
YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
MAEDA...
gasp
gasp
SHOULD I MAKE UP SOME EXCUSE FOR YOU?
IT'S SOME GUY CALLED MAEDA.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER IT, DO YOU?
P P P
P P P
P P P
WHAT THE...
YOU STUPID FOOL!
THAT MEANS...
HELLO
IS THAT YOU, MAEDA?
WHAT IS IT? NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME
HUH?
OSAKA?! WHAT FOR?
DID SOMETHING COME UP AT WORK?
wobble
MATSUMOTO?
TAXI... CALL ME A TAXI. I MUST GET TO OSAKA.
GOT IT.
I'LL BE THERE SOON.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
click

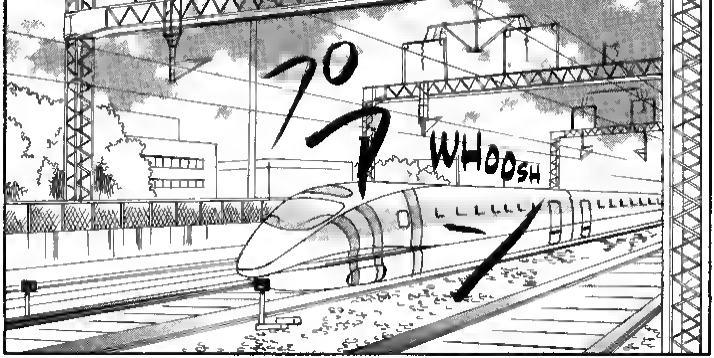
A NEW GUY'S SCREWED THINGS UP
HE'S COME RUNNING TO ME FOR HELP
wobble
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT YOUR ATTACK?
I'M FINE NOW
WAIT! YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO BOOK A TAXI FOR SUCH A LONG-HAUL TRIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
WHAT NUMBER DO I CALL FOR A CAB?
THEN LEND ME A CAR...
THINK STRAIGHT, MATSUMOTO!
YOUR BEST OPTIONS ARE PLANE OR BULLET TRAIN!
WHERE IN OSAKA?
THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
GO BY BULLET TRAIN! IT'S A THIRTY-MINUTE DRIVE TO TOKYO, AND THEN YOU CAN CATCH A TRAIN TO REACH OSAKA BY 8:30!

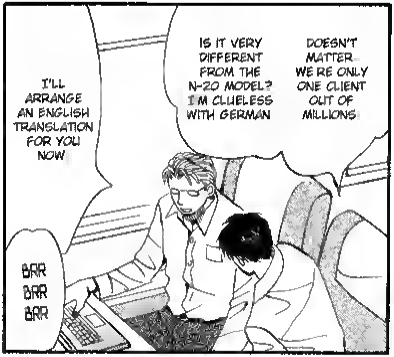

IT'LL BE EASIER IF WE USE MY COMPANY CAR TO REACH TOKYO
I CAN'T BELIEVE MAEDA...
IF I DON'T GET THERE SOON...
WHERE'S THE CAR?
IT'LL GIVE YOU A BIT MORE TIME TO RECOVER
WAIT! I'LL DRIVE!

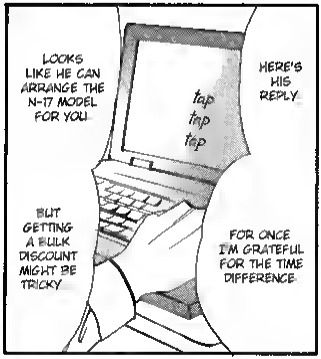
VROOM

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT
TAKE IT EASY IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT
LEAVE IT TO ME. I'LL GET YOU THERE IN TIME
THE PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT IS THAT WE'RE WAITING ON IMPORTANT LAB SUPPLIES.
WE WERE EXPECTING THE SHIPMENT TO ARRIVE BUT IT NEVER CAME
I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MAKER AND TRY TO ARRANGE SOMETHING AT SHORT NOTICE.

SEMPAI: Japanese title for 'senior.' May refer to either students or co-workers who occupy a higher rank.


WHOOSH

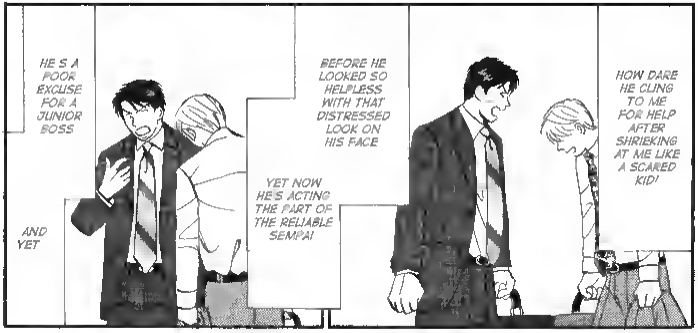

I'LL ARRANGE AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION FOR YOU NOW
IS IT VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE N-20 MODEL? I'M CLUELESS WITH GERMAN
DOESN'T MATTER WE'RE ONLY ONE CLIENT OUT OF MILLIONS
BRR BRR BRR


HERE'S HIS REPLY
tap tap tap
LOOKS LIKE HE CAN ARRANGE THE N-17 MODEL FOR YOU
BUT GETTING A BULK DISCOUNT MIGHT BE TRICKY
FOR ONCE I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME DIFFERENCE

MAEDA? I'M ON THE BULLET TRAIN
IT'S DONE
YEAH, IT'S FINE NO NEED TO BE UPSET I SWEAR
IT WAS CARELESS OF YOU NOT TO PICK THIS UP SOONER!
BUT I'VE MADE MUCH BIGGER BLUNDERS THAN YOU IN MY TIME
LISTEN! IT'S ALL FIXED, MORON!
YEAH, IT'S FINE NOW. ALL FINE!

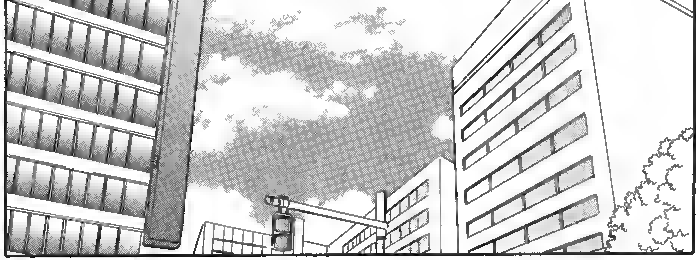
SHIN OSAKA!
SHIN OSAKA!
DO YOU FEEL BETTER, MATSU-MOTO?
UH, OH!
AHH... F-FORGIVE ME, MATSUMOTO THE SWEAT FROM MY HAND... LEFT A STAIN ON YOUR TROUSERS
I MUST'VE LEFT MY HAND THERE THE WHOLE TIME
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP
YEAH, WELL
NEVER MIND
rattle

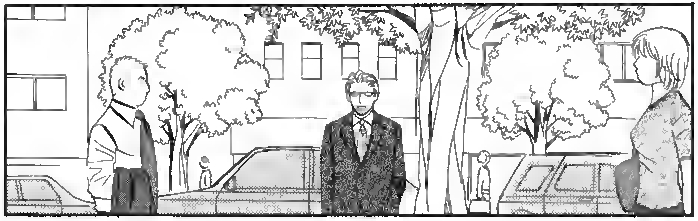
HE'S A USELESS LAYABOUT!


HE'S A POOR EXCUSE FOR A JUNIOR BOSS
AND YET
BEFORE HE LOOKED SO HELPLESS WITH THAT DISTRESSED LOOK ON HIS FACE
YET NOW HE'S ACTING THE PART OF THE RELIABLE SEMPAI
HOW DARE HE CLING TO ME FOR HELP AFTER SHRIEKING AT ME LIKE A SCARED KID!

IT MAKES ME WISH...
HE'S WILLING TO HELP
A GUY OUT OF TROUBLE
HE'LL PUT HIS OWN NEEDS ASIDE TO EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO SOMEONE ELSE
HE DOES HAVE HIS GOOD POINTS
WHEN HE'S NOT BEING RIDICULOUS OR ACTING LIKE A SHOW-OFF...

I WISH I COULD BE THE RECIPIENT OF HIS KINDNESS
WITHOUT WARNING HE'D PLACE A COMFORTING HAND ON MY SHOULDER
AND LIFT MY SPIRITS WHEN I FEEL LOW
...THAT I COULD BE IN THE OTHER GUY'S SHOES
SO THAT I'D SEE HIM COME UP AND SHOW ME HIS UNGUARDED SMILE
MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED
WOULD I GO RIGHT NOW?
YES, EVEN NOW
I WANT HIM TO GIVE ME THE SAME CAREFREE SMILE
IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME,
I WOULD
I'LL...
I WANT HIM TO PLACE HIS ARM AROUND MY SHOULDER
AND THEN
I'LL LOOK UP IN HIS SMILING FACE AND LEAN ON HIS SHOULDER
AND WHEN I FEEL HIS BODY





UMM...
CLack
MINATO
BE QUIET! I RUSHED ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO IN A MAD PANIC, SO THAT'S THE LAST THING ON MY MIND!
YOU NEED TO SHAVE THAT STUBBLE!
YOU LOOK AWFUL!
WELL, I'VE LET HIM OFF THE HOOK.
HOW DID IT GO?
IT WAS OUR BOSS'S TURN TO GO BALLISTIC INSTEAD

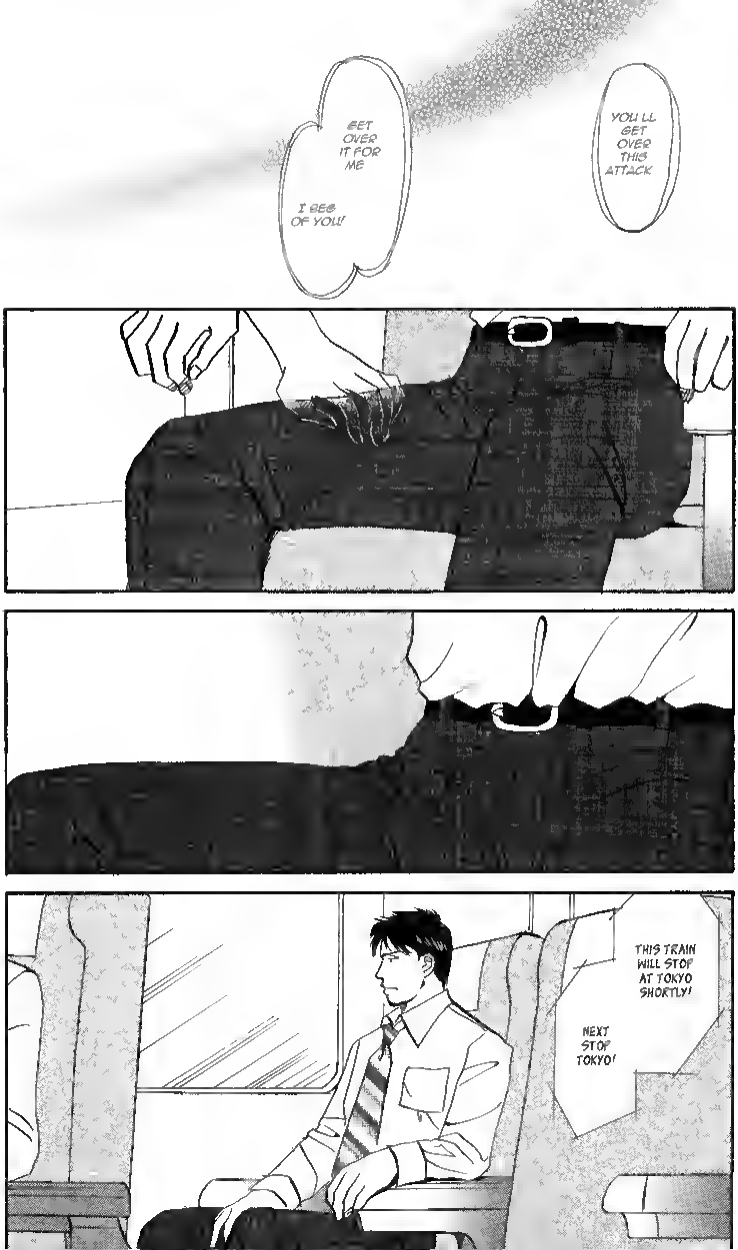
THEN CONSIDER IT A LOAN. PAY ME BACK BY LEAVING THE MONEY WITH YOUR SUBORDINATE.
THERE!
HUH? I'VE ONLY GOT 2000 YEN ON ME...
YEAH... I OWE YOU FOR THE TICKET...
I HAD TO COME OUT HERE ANYWAY, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY EXPENSES.
THE COST OF YOUR BULLET TRAIN TICKET. HURRY BACK TO WORK BEFORE YOUR BOSS TELLS YOU OFF.
SINCE I CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL VISIT MY FIRM'S OSAKA BRANCH AND TAKE CARE OF SOME ERRANDS.
I ENDED UP DRAGGING YOU INTO THIS EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T YOUR PROBLEM.
YOU DID SO MUCH...
WHAT'S THAT?
HERE YOU GO.
IT'S RUDE, I KNOW.
I DIDN'T WANT TO ASK THIS OF YOU BEFORE, BUT...
FROM NOW ON,
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN.
SO LONG.
BUT... UMM...
AHH...
SURE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...
I KNOW I'VE CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE...

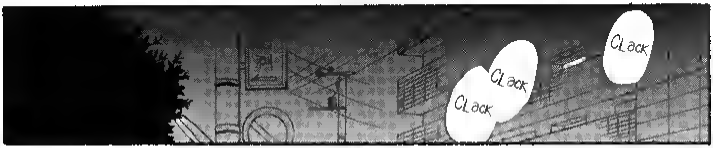
AT LEAST ALLOW ME TO THANK YOU BY TAKING YOU OUT TO DINNER...
IT'S NOT FAIR FOR YOU!
LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
BUT YOU'VE GONE OUT OF YOUR WAY TO HELP ME!
CLACK
GET AWAY, FOOL!
DON'T COME AFTER ME!
MINATO!
HANG ON!
MINATO!
HEY WAIT!
jog jog
FUCK OFF!

IF YOU DON'T LET ME GO,
I'LL FUCK YOU!
I'LL FUCK THE HELL OUTTA YOU!
JAB
I'll...

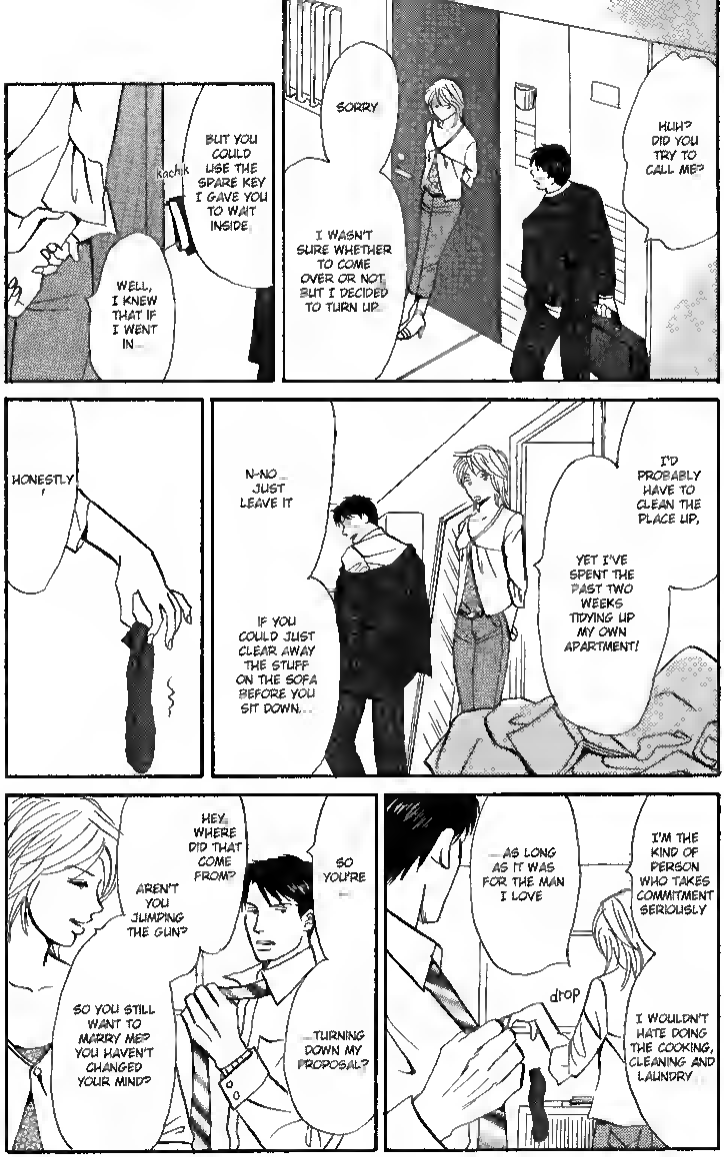
HOW FAR BACK...
HOW FAR BACK IN TIME DO I WANT TO GO?
NO I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK ANYMORE
AFTER SO LONG, I FINALLY LEARNED MY LESSON

AFTER SO MANY WASTED YEARS...
I FINALLY LEARNED MY LESSON...
AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF BEING GAY...
AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF BEING ALIVE...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LONG FOR HIM...
HE'LL ALWAYS BE BEYOND MY REACH


YOU LL GET OVER THIS ATTACK
GET OVER IT FOR ME
I BEG OF YOU!
THIS TRAIN WILL STOP AT TOKYO SHORTLY!
NEXT STOP TOKYO!


CLack
CLack
CLack

MIKA!
CLACK


HUH? DID YOU TRY TO CALL ME?
SORRY
I WASN'T SURE WHETHER TO COME OVER OR NOT, BUT I DECIDED TO TURN UP.
kachik
BUT YOU COULD USE THE SPARE KEY I GAVE YOU TO WAIT INSIDE.
WELL, I KNEW THAT IF I WENT IN...
I'D PROBABLY HAVE TO CLEAN THE PLACE UP.
YET I'VE SPENT THE PAST TWO WEEKS TIDYING UP MY OWN APARTMENT!
N-NO— JUST LEAVE IT
IF YOU COULD JUST CLEAR AWAY THE STUFF ON THE SOFA BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN...
HONESTLY
I'M THE KIND OF PERSON WHO TAKES COMMITMENT SERIOUSLY
—AS LONG AS IT WAS FOR THE MAN I LOVE
drop
I WOULDN'T HATE DOING THE COOKING, CLEANING AND LAUNDRY
SO YOU'RE—
—TURNING DOWN MY PROPOSAL?
HEY, WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
AREN'T YOU JUMPING THE GUN?
SO YOU STILL WANT TO MARRY ME? YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR MIND?

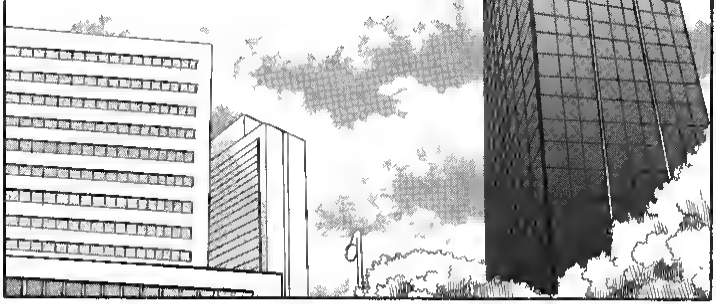
I CAN UNWIND AND REST EASY WHEN I'M BY YOUR SIDE
NO OTHER WOMAN MAKES ME FEEL THIS WAY
SAME HERE
I FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH YOU. BUT I'M NOT MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU.
THAT'S WHY...
I DID THINK IT WOULD BE IN MY BEST INTERESTS...
...TO AGREE TO MARRY YOU,
UNTIL I WONDERED HOW I WOULD COPE WITH TAKING CARE OF YOUR DAILY NEEDS.
WE COULD SPLIT THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES
NO THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN!
yank
IT'LL BE UP TO ME TO FULFILL YOUR EVERY NEED, SO I'VE GOT TO BE PREPARED!
I'D BE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO YOU.
EVERY DAY I'D MAKE THE APARTMENT SPOTLESS AND COOK DELICIOUS MEALS
I'D BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH GIVING UP MY JOB SINCE I'LL BE FINANCIALLY DEPENDENT ON YOU,
SO I'M CONFIDENT I CAN BE YOUR IDEAL WIFE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT THE MAN I'M MADLY IN LOVE WITH,
I'D BE WILLING TO DEVOTE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO YOU...
...AS LONG AS I KNEW THAT YOU WERE MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME!

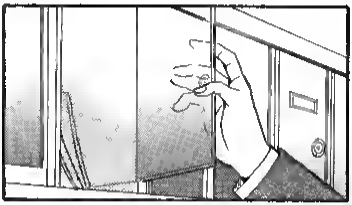
I WANT YOU...
...TO BE WITH ME.
BUT...
YOU'RE THE ONE...
...I LOVE.
slap
MIKA!
MIKA...
creak
I'M REJECTING...
...YOUR PROPOSAL.

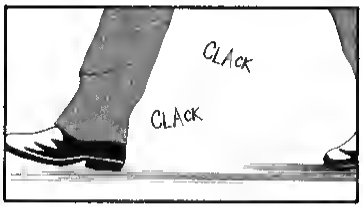
I'M SORRY
YOU FELT OBLIGED TO PROPOSE TO ME
PERHAPS IT WAS JUST TOO LITTLE TOO LATE
GOODBYE DUMBASS

clack

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT THE MAN I'M MADLY IN LOVE WITH
AS LONG AS I KNEW THAT YOU WERE MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME



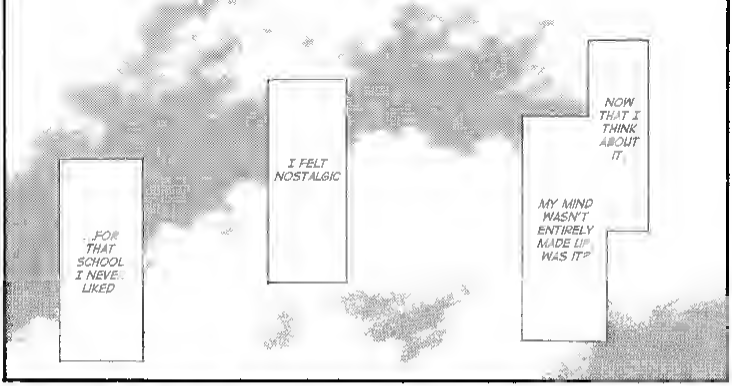


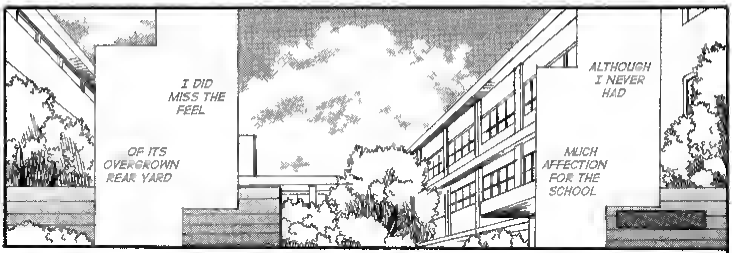

CLACK
CLACK

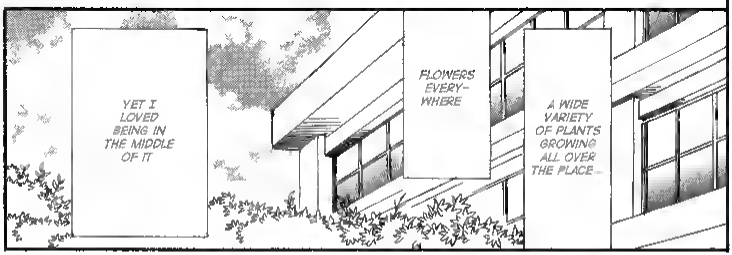
REALLY, WHO'D GO?
NO ONE THERE WILL REMEMBER ME AT ALL.
AND I WON'T REMEMBER ANYONE EITHER

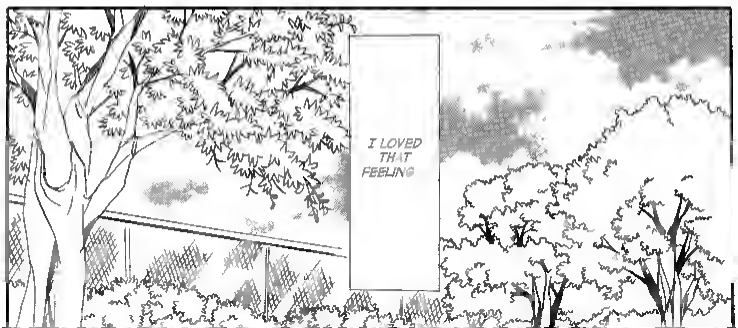
HOW MANY TIMES ARE THESE MAILED OUT?
AM I THE ONLY ONE GETTING SO MANY?
NOT AGAIN! YET ANOTHER OF THESE MINI-REUNION INVITES!

UGH!


NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
I FELT NOSTALGIC
...FOR THAT SCHOOL I NEVE... LIKED
MY MIND WASN'T ENTIRELY MADE UP WAS IT?


I DID MISS THE FEEL
OF ITS OVERGROWN REAR YARD
ALTHOUGH I NEVER HAD
MUCH AFFECTION FOR THE SCHOOL


YET I LOVED BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF IT
FLOWERS EVERY-WHERE
A WIDE VARIETY OF PLANTS GROWING ALL OVER THE PLACE...


I LOVED THAT FEELING

THIS FEELING RIGHT HERE
I WONDER WHERE THE MINI-REUNION IS BEING HELD
WELL I SUPPOSE THEY'RE HAVING THE AFTER-PARTY AT A RESTAURANT SOMEPLACE BY NOW
rustle
THEY'VE MADE THE PLACE MUCH NICER THAN BEFORE
SO HAS IT BEEN CONVERTED INTO A NURSING HOME?
WHAT A SHAME
HEY!
I REMEMBER THIS TREE!
YES, THIS IS IT!
THERE WERE LOTS OF STRANGE BUGS LIVING IN A CRACK WITHIN THE KNOT OF THIS TREE!

BUT WHERE?
RIGHT! SO THE P.E TEACHER'S OFFICE IS AROUND HERE
THAT'S RIGHT
IT WAS IN FRONT OF THE P.E TEACHER'S OFFICE
THAT I CAUGHT SIGHT
—OF HIM

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN,
MINATO.

I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BACK THEN
LIKE YOU
I ALSO ENJOYED COMING OUT HERE
DO YOU REMEMBER, MINATO?
WHAT?
OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER BACK IN THIRD YEAR
BACK THEN I WOULD THINK...
ABOUT THAT DULL OLD GEEZER A LOT
AND THIS FUNNY FEELING WOULD COME OVER ME

IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO DEAL WITH I'D GET SO HORNY
THAT I'D DO THIS EVERY DAY ON MY OWN OUT HERE
I COULDN'T MAKE SENSE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME
I'D WISH HE WOULD HOLD ME TIGHT IN HIS ARMS
AND HAVE HIS WAY WITH ME
I'D HAVE THIS URGE TO CARESS HIS BODY.
AND I'D WISH HE'D STROKE ME BACK.

NOT YET, ANYWAY
THIS TIME I WON'T FALL APART LIKE I DID BACK THEN
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE...
STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
HOWEVER, THERE YOU WERE,
ONE DAY AFTER SEEING HIM IN THE TEACHER'S OFFICE,
THAT FUNNY FEELING CAME OVER ME AGAIN.

DON'T GET ME WRONG
I'VE NEVER BEEN A HOMO
UNLIKE YOU, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN DESPERATE TO FIT IN
I USED TO THINK THAT IF I JUST RAN LIKE ALL THE OTHER GUYS,
AND LIVED THE SAME KIND OF LIFE AS ALL THE OTHER GUYS,
AND SLEPT WITH WOMEN LIKE ALL THE OTHER GUYS, THEN I'D NEVER HAVE THOSE PANIC ATTACKS AGAIN.
SO DO YOU THINK I'M THE KIND OF GUY YOU'D WANNA FUCK?
ARE YOU TRULY UP FOR IT?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES—
...TO MAKE A REAL HOMO OUT OF ME,
MINATO?
SO AM I STILL.

STILL NOT CURED YET?
SLIDE
I STILL SUFFER FROM THE SICKNESS OF YOUTH
END

"TENGOKU GA MIERU"
[Viewing Heaven]

Chapters 5 6 of *Seishun no Yamai wa*
A two-part story by Nishida Higashi

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Publisher Hanaoto Comics, Houbunsha

A Half baked scanlation
URL http //lyrebird.aithune.org/halfbaked/

NOTE

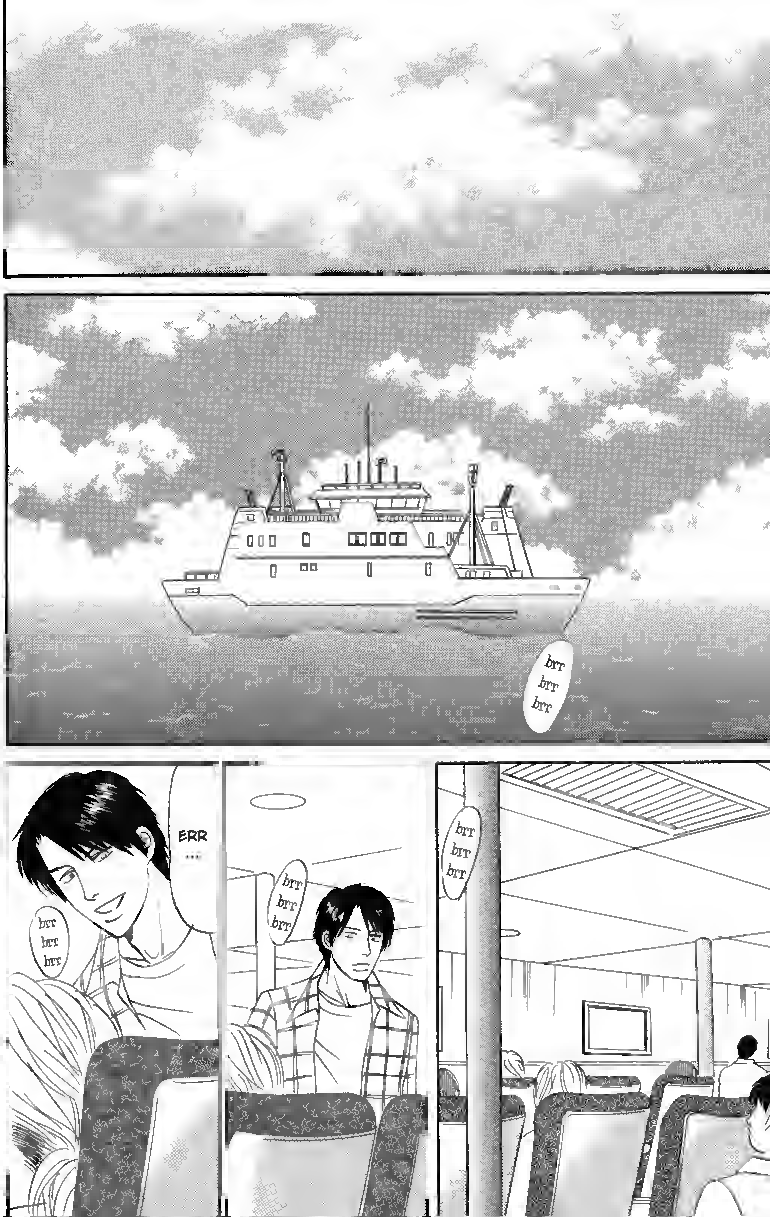
This story is a sequel to *Negai Kanae Tamae (Grant My Wish)* that focuses on Kudo Fukemi's sunglasses-clad bodyguard To understand Kudo's backstory and the numerous flashbacks readers are expected to be familiar with the events of *Negai Kanae Tamae*

Complete scanlations of all three volumes by Volyund are available here
http //volyund.livejournal.com/

Tengoku ga Mieru

天国が見える［前編］

Viewing Heaven [part 1]


brr
brr
brr
ERR
...
brr
brr
brr
brr
brr
brr
brr
brr
brr

HEY, YOUR CELLPHONE'S RINGING.
brr brr brr
I SEE! YOU SWITCHED THE SOUND OFF! DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THAT CALL. HUH?
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP AND DIDN'T NOTICE IT RINGING.
IT'S RISKY TO NOD OFF WITH YOUR SUITCASE LYING AROUND, YOU KNOW.
YOU'D HAVE BETTER LUCK WALKING UP TO A CROOK AND ASKING HIM TO MIND YOUR BELONGINGS FOR YOU!
LATELY CRIME HAS BEEN ON THE INCREASE IN THESE PARTS.
THERE ARE OTHER VACANT SEATS.
HUH?
.....
AH, I DIDN'T REALIZE. I SHOULD APOLOGIZE AT ONCE.
BUT BEFORE I DO...

I KNEW IT! YOU'RE NOT THAT OLD!
A BIT OF ADVICE FOR YOU, MAN...
I REALLY WAS ABOUT TO STEAL YOUR WALLET ABOARD THIS SHIP. DIDN'T YOU GET MY HINT?
BUT I'VE DECIDED TO LET YOU OFF WITH A WARNING AS MY GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY.
GET LOST.
I'M PRETTY GOOD AT IT. IT'S MY SPECIALTY.
.....
WHOA, YOU'RE SCARY WHEN YOU'RE MAD!
EXCUSE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU.
I LIKED THE LOOK OF YOU, THAT'S ALL.
HAVE A NICE TRIP.
SEEMS LIKE...
THEY DO SPEAK ENGLISH AROUND THE MAJOR PORTS.
AND I'LL CATCH UP WITH MY OLD CONTACT IN THIS AREA TOMORROW.
SO I'LL HANG AROUND THIS HARBOR CITY FOR A WHILE...
BUT I WONDER WHAT MADE ME COME BACK HERE AFTER SO LONG.
AM I BEING RECKLESS IN TRAVELING ALONE? AM I ON SOME KIND OF SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY?

WHY NOT?
IT'S NOT THAT I'VE GOT ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR TO HIDE,
BUT I FELT AS IF I COULDN'T STAY IN MY FORMER POSITION ANY LONGER.
AFTER SO MANY YEARS, I'M BACK TO BEING ANONYMOUS
COME TO THINK OF IT
I WAS THERE TOO LONG
AND THE LONGER I STAYED THE MORE INVOLVED I GOT
WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE I BEGAN WORKING FOR HIM
I CAN'T RECALL
SO LONG AGO
MAYBE BECAUSE IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO

MM...
.....
MM
.....
HM?
.....
I CAN'T TAKE ALL OF THIS IN MY MOUTH
MAN YOU'RE HUGE!
LET ME GO!
NOW!

GRAB
クルイ
LET GO? BUT I'LL SWALLOW EVERY DROP FOR YOU...
YOU WERE NEARLY ON THE BRINK OF A WET DREAM, HUH?
SEE? YOU'RE ALREADY...
ビチャ
spurt
ビチャ
spurt
ビチャ

WE'VE ARRIVED! WE'VE MADE IT!
THE FERRY IRENE WILL BE DOCKING AT PORT SHORTLY!
OH, YOUR CELLPHONE S RINGING AGAIN...
brr brr brr
PLEASE HELP ME THERE'LL BE A BIG COMMOTION IF I'M REPORTED TO THE POLICE.
ALL THIS SLEAZY FAGGOT WANTS IN RETURN FOR HIS SERVICES IS ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER THE PASSENGER TERMINAL FEES
SLEAZY FAGGOT!
YOU...
THERE! NOW BEAT IT!
YOU SURE YOU WON'T ANSWER YOUR PHONE?
COULD BE IMPORTANT, MAN

FIRST OF ALL,
I NEED A MEAL AND A HOTEL ROOM FOR THE NIGHT
SEEMS LIKE I'VE GOT NO URGENT APPOINT-MENTS
snap
click
I'M NOT A PERSON WHO MUST KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR TROUBLE ANYMORE
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHO I AM AND WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COME WITH ME ANYWAY...
FOR HE'S LOST HIS MIND...
STRANGELY ENOUGH, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT HIM A LOT SINCE I LEFT JAPAN
I KNOW. I'LL JUST GO INTO THE TOWN CENTER AND—
IF YOU'RE AFTER THE SUBWAY, THERE'S A SHORTCUT OVER HERE...
I EVEN KNOW OF A GREAT SEAFOOD PLACE ALONG THE WAY!
HUH?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SHOW YOU?

GRAB
WHA—
UWAAA!
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT 'GET LOST' MEANS,
HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU...
...A PERSONAL DEMONSTRATION?
HEY!
H-HANG ON A SEC, MAN!
THERE'S WATER BELOW!
YOU WANT THE LOCAL POLICE HOT ON YOUR TRAIL?
I'LL WARN THEM A YAKUZA FROM JAPAN'S ARRIVED IN TOWN.

splash
WAAAH!
EH?
YOU REALLY LET GO OF ME!
YOU MEAN BASTARD!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M A JAPANESE YAKUZA?
I'M PRETTY SURE I DON'T LOOK ASIAN.
splish
splish
BUT I DIDN'T STEAL A THING!
YO! SAVE ME! I'M GONNA DROWN!
splash
WELL I'M GOING INTO TOWN
SO YOU CHECKED MY PASSPORT, HUH? WHILE I WAS NAPPING
splash
HAVE I HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD?
I'VE SEEN THE MOVIES! YOU CHOPPED OFF THE TIP OF YOUR LITTLE FINGER, RIGHT?
I
I SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH PETER—
What a Bastard
Peter

Aachoo!
HEY, YOU DON'T MIND BUYING ME SOME NEW CLOTHES, DO YOU?
I'LL CATCH A COLD OTHERWISE
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING
I DON'T EVEN NEED MY COAT IN THIS WEATHER
IT FIGURES THAT THEY'RE BILINGUAL AROUND HERE IS THIS THE GERMAN PART OF TOWN?
MAN, DO YOU KNOW GERMAN?
WRITTEN, YEAH
BUT NOT IF IT'S SPOKEN TOO QUICKLY
ARE NEO-NAZI GROUPS THRIVING OVER HERE?
IT'S A BACKLASH AGAINST THE INCREASING NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS.
LOW-LIFE CRIMS AND OTHER SCUM GATHER HERE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE UNREST
AND IT'S THE ORDINARY CITIZENS WHO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE CRIME WAVE
UNFAIR, HUH?
THEN WHY HANG AROUND A YAKUZA FROM JAPAN, A GUY WHO'S LIKE ALL THE OTHER SCUM?
WHEN I FIRST LAID EYES ON YOU KUDO-SAN...
I HAD A FEELING THERE WAS A NICE MAN HIDING BEHIND THOSE SUNGLASSES
SEE? OVER HERE'S THE GOOD SEAFOOD PLACE

I MUST ADMIT IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE TRIED THE LOCAL WINE
PLUS IT'S EVEN LONGER SINCE I'VE HAD DRINKS WITH A HOT GUY.
SO YOU GO FOR MEN AND WOMEN?
HUH?
YOU'RE A MARRIED MAN, AREN'T YOU?
AHH!
NO, I'M ON MY OWN NOW. I'VE JUST GONE BACK TO BEING A FAGGOT.
BUT I'M USED TO HAVING THE RING ON MY FINGER, SO I LEAVE IT ON.
SO ARE YOU REALLY A JAPANESE YAKUZA, KUDO-SAN?
NOW I'M...
NO.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU CAN JUST DIRECT ME TO A DECENT HOTEL LATER! SINCE I'M FOOTING THIS BILL THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IN RETURN IS SHOW ME AROUND!
.....
clang
カチャ
CRASH

KYAA!
crash
ガシャン
BANG
ドン
WHAT THE...
STAY DOWN HERE!
GET BEHIND ME!
SHOVE
DAMN!
I'M UNARMED!
IT'S ALL RIGHT! JUST A GANG DISPUTE! THEY'RE LEAVING THE JOINT.
EVEN IN THIS PLACE, THERE'S NO ESCAPING THESE THUGS.

IS THIS WHAT IT'S NORMALLY LIKE HERE? EVEN THE THUGS CARRY FIREARMS!
MAYBE THEY JUST CAME OVER TO RENOVATE THE PLACE.
BUT I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, KUDO-SAN
WHAT?
THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING ME.
WHY WOULD I PROTECT SOMEONE LIKE YOU?!
IT WAS JUST A REFLEX ACTION!
AHA! YOU WERE A YAKUZA'S BODYGUARD WEREN'T YOU, KUDO-SAN?
I CERTAINLY HAD THE IMPRESSION YOU WERE MORE LIKE A LACKEY THAN A BOSS
SO WHAT WAS THE BUNGLE THAT MADE YOU CHOP YOUR FINGER OFF?
WHERE'S THE NEAREST HOTEL?
search search
WASN'T HE THE GUY ARRESTED FOR RAPE A WHILE BACK?
IS HE ALREADY OUT OF JAIL?
YOU AFTER A WEAPON TO DEFEND YOURSELF?

THE LOCAL RENOVATING CRAZE MUST BE BRINGING IN A LOT OF BUSINESS INDEED
SHEESH, I LAND HERE AND A FEW HOURS LATER I'M ALREADY BRANDISHING A GUN
KUDO-SAN, YOU QUIT THE YAKUZA, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY ARE YOU HERE IN THIS COUNTRY?

WHAT'S IT TO YOU? WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
I DOUBT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN WOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS SHADY OUTLET NO MATTER HOW BAD THE CRIME WAVE
FIVE YEARS AGO,
I WAS A SMALL-TIME THIEF WORKING SOLO IN THIS TOWN
BUT I ALSO DID THE ODD THEFT FOR A LOCAL CRIME SYNDICATE
LATER I LEFT THE AREA AND BECAME SERIOUS ABOUT HOLDING DOWN A REAL JOB

WELL YOU MUST BE BACK IN TOWN FOR SOME PURPOSE OF YOUR OWN
HAVE YOU GONE BACK TO PICKING POCKETS FOR A CRIME GANG?
NAH, I'VE PAID THE PRICE ALREADY FOR MY PAST
BUT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO NAB SOME OF THESE, HUH?
DESPITE HOW THEY LOOK, THE GUYS HERE AREN'T JUST BROWSING THEY FEEL RESTLESS AND EDGY BECAUSE THEY DON'T OWN A GUN YET
YOU READY TO BE THE TARGET IN A TEST SHOOTOUT?

THIS ONE...
FEELS A BIT HEAVY.
7/11
pssh
flomp
KUDO-SAN...
YOU FINALLY CALLED ME BY MY NAME.
I'LL PASS
HUH? NAH, I...
YOU THINKING OF BUYING THAT?
YEAH?
LUKE?

HEY, KUDO-SAN...
YOUR PHONE RANG WHILE YOU WERE IN THE BATHROOM
DAMN. I WAS EVEN THINKING ABOUT ANSWERING IT THIS TIME.
YOU'VE BETRAYED SOME YAKUZA MEMBERS AND NOW THEY'RE OUT TO GET YOU, AREN'T THEY?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS SOON I'LL BE GOING BACK UP TO MY ROOM TO SLEEP.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC? THE REGULAR SINGER WHO WORKS HERE IS PRETTY CUTE HUH?
KUDO-SAN...
DID YOU LEAVE SOMEONE SPECIAL BEHIND IN JAPAN?

WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
I DIDN'T LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND!
NEVER
THEN HOW ABOUT TAKING A CHANCE ON ME?
GEEZ. SO ARE YOU SAYING IF YOU HAD A CHOICE YOU'D RATHER BE MY BODYGUARD THAN MY LOVER, KUDO-SAN?
JUDGING BY THE WAY YOU PROTECTED ME EARLIER I THOUGHT YOU'D FALLEN FOR ME
I WASN'T PROTECTING YOU
NOPE
SURELY YOUR BOSS DEPENDED ON YOU TO PROTECT HIM, KUDO-SAN
BUT I WONDER HOW HE'S GOING
WHY? WAS HE A LOUSY BOSS?
NO...
NO, HE NEVER WAS...
KUDO-S..N,
I'M SO SORRY.

HUH?
YOUR BOSS IS DEAD, ISN'T HE?
NAH
HE'S ALIVE
HE'S STILL ALIVE

REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT NEWS!
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
WHAT A RELIEF!

YEAH, IT IS.

HE MUST'VE BEEN A GREAT BOSS, HUH?
I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU'LL BE GOING BACK TO HIM SOON.
HUH?
I'VE MET OTHER MEN EXACTLY LIKE YOU
GUYS WHO SERVE AS LOYAL MINIONS
THEY FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT THE ORDERS OF THEIR BOSS
...LIKE ORGANIZING A MURDER AND SKILLFULLY DISMEMBERING THE CORPSE TO AVOID IDENTIFICATION
FORGET YOUR HUMANITY ISN'T THAT THE CLAN MINDSET?
FORGET THAT YOU'RE HUMAN YOURSELF. FORGET THAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE HUMAN TOO.
THAT'S HOW YOU CAN KILL SOMEONE WITHOUT GUILT OR HESITATION,
AND EVEN FACE THE PROSPECT OF YOUR OWN DEATH WITHOUT FEAR
I DO FEAR DEATH,
BUT MY BOSS WAS DIFFERENT.
THAT'S WHY I WAS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT HIM FROM HIMSELF.
THAT WAS MY JOB.
BUT IT DIDN'T START OUT THAT WAY. INITIALLY I THOUGHT I WAS SIMPLY THERE TO BABYSIT HIM FOR THE CHAIRMAN.
.....
I SEE.

NO OTHER MAN HAS EVER...
...COME SO CLOSE TO FINISHING ME OFF.
I THINK...
...THAT HE WANTED ME DEAD THE ONE TIME I STOOD UP TO HIM.
I CAN'T TELL IF HE EVER DEPENDED ON ME TO PROTECT HIM.
BECAUSE HE HAD SO LITTLE FAITH IN MY LOYALTY...

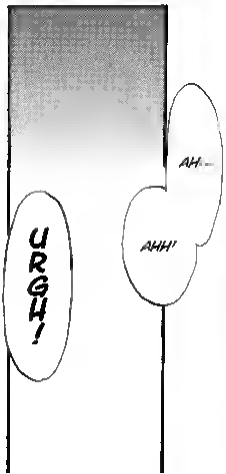
...I'VE REGAINED MY HUMANITY HAVEN'T I?
SO MAYBE HE WAS A GREAT BOSS

...WOULD HE HAVE REGAINED HIS HUMANITY TOO?
IF I CAME ACROSS HIM BY CHANCE ONE DAY...

I HAVEN'T EVEN CHECKED OUT THE REST OF THE TOWN OR TOUCHED BASE WITH MY CONTACT YET
...BUT HE'S JUST CHATTING WITH HER OVER DRINKS
I NEVER EXPECTED THE THIEF WOULD PICK UP A SLUT

IT'S ALL HIS FAULT...

THAT I'M ACTING SO WEIRD TONIGHT!


AH...
AHH!
URGH!

UGH...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
DON'T... WE'LL STARTLE HIM.
I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT MAKING HIM DRINK SOME WATER MAY...
LEAVE IT. I'VE DONE ENOUGH FOR HIM ALREADY!
I BARELY KNEW HIM TO BEGIN WITH.
WON'T HE WAKE UP IF HE HEARS US?
IF HE WAKES UP, I'LL THROW HIM OUT.
AHH. MM...
AAAH!
.....
AH!
OUCH YOU'RE SO BIG!
MOVE YOUR FOOT HERE
CREAK
WHOA.

IS SHE SQUEEZING YOU NICE AND TIGHT?
ALL I WANT TO DO IS WATCH YOU, KUDO-SAN...
STOP
OHH!
AHH!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY SO GET LOST!
I DON'T WANT TO BE IN A THREE-SOME WITH ANOTHER GUY!
GET OUT! WE'RE NOT PUTTING ON A SHOW!
OOH! WHY... CAN'T WE?
AMAZING... YOU'RE SO HARD...
NGH!
WATCH YOU WHILE YOU'RE GETTING LAID BY A WOMAN...
WHACK

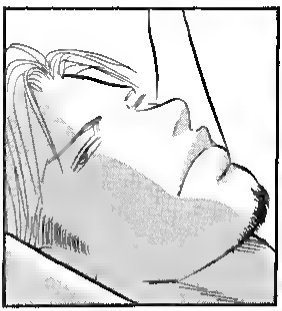
I'M NO HOMO! THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA LET A MAN PLANT A KISS ON ME!
OWW!
T-TAKE IT EASY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT A NOSE-BLEED.
thunk
KYAA!
CUT IT OUT! NOW GET LOST!
HAVING A WHOPPING BIG COCK IS NO REASON TO BE SO RUDE!
I WON'T PUT UP WITH SUCH ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR AS WELL!
SORRY, I'M LEAVING IT'S WRONG OF ME TO WALK OUT HALFWAY, BUT I DON'T CARE
WHOMP
OOF!
YOU'RE A THUG TO PUNCH HIM OUT OF THE BLUE! THAT WAS AWFUL, YOU BIG BRUTE!
I'M ALL RIGHT! IT'S MY FAULT FOR JOKING AROUND!
Hush!
SLAM
HEY!
WAIT A SEC!
HUH? ARE YOU SERIOUS? COME BACK!
THAT'S ALL.
GOOD NIGHT.

KUDO-SAN?
SORRY, KUDO-SAN...
MAYBE I CAN CO..X HER BACK.
IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT...
ERR...
.....
FORGET IT.
TELLING YOU ALL ABOUT MY BOSS HAS BROUGHT BACK SO MANY MEMORIES
...THAT I'M EVEN STARTING TO ACT LIKE HIM!
HOW?
HOW ARE YOU ACTING LIKE YOUR BOSS? WAS HE A VIOLENT MAN?
WATCH IT! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
ANY CLOSER AND YOU WON'T BE LAUGHING YOUR NOSE WILL BE SPURTING BLOOD!
MEAN BASTARD! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUNCH ME! GEEZ...

YOU SURE YOUR BOSS WASN'T ATTRACTED TO YOU, KUDO-SAN?
HE COULD'VE BEEN ATTRACTED TO YOU!
NOT IN A MILLION YEARS
WE WERE NEVER LIKE THAT BUT I FINALLY WORKED OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON JUST NOW

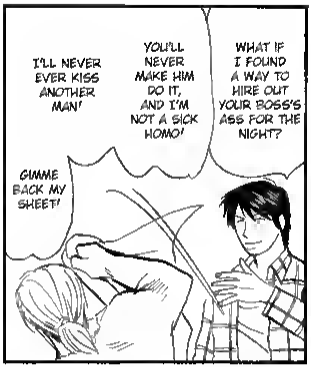
WAS YOUR BOSS GOOD-LOOKING, KUDO-SAN?
YEAH

I WONDER IF YOU WERE ATTRACTED TO YOUR BOSS, KUDO-SAN
DID HE QUIT BEING A YAKUZA?
POSSIBLY
YOU LONELY WITHOUT HIM?
YOU TOLD HER TO HIRE OUT HER ASS FOR THE NIGHT DIDN'T YOU? THAT'S WHY SHE WAS SO WILLING
NOW WHY WOULD A HOMO DO ME A FAVOR LIKE THAT?
WHAT?
Chok
ゴト

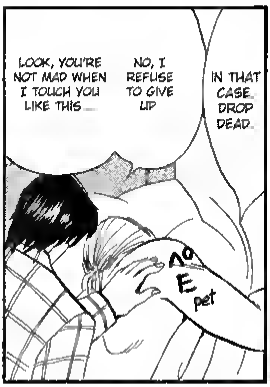


YEAH...
RIGHT...
NO.
AS LONG AS I KNOW HE'S ALIVE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME

ALTHOUGH I'VE ALWAYS HAD A WEAKNESS FOR STUBBORN TOUGH GUYS
THE FIRST PERSON I EVER LOVED WAS A WOMAN
YEAH, TRUE ENOUGH.
THEN AGAIN, HE MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN STRUCK DOWN BY SOME ACT OF GOD
IT WAS IN HONOR OF HER MEMORY THAT I SEVERED MY LINKS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME.
DID SHE DIE FROM SOME ILLNESS? AN ACCIDENT?
SHE WAS VERY KIND AND GENEROUS TOWARDS OTHER PEOPLE.
SHE PUT HER OWN NEEDS ASIDE TO FOCUS SOLELY ON HELPING OUT OTHERS WHO WERE LESS FORTUNATE.
SHE...
...DETESTED THE USE OF VIOLENCE.

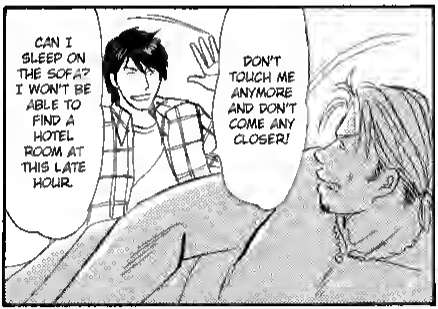

I'LL NEVER EVER KISS ANOTHER MAN!
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE HIM DO IT, AND I'M NOT A SICK HOMO!
WHAT IF I FOUND A WAY TO HIRE OUT YOUR BOSS'S ASS FOR THE NIGHT?
GIMME BACK MY SHEET!

YOU FELT SORRY FOR ME JUST NOW, RIGHT?
KUDO-SAN, WILL YOU GIVE ME A KISS?
WHAT?
YOU THINK THAT'S A GOOD ENOUGH REASON TO KISS YOU?

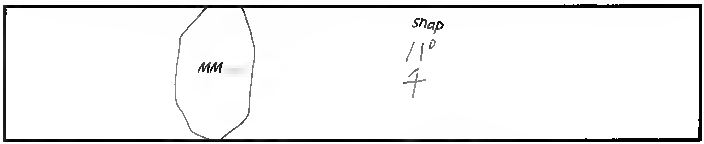

LOOK, YOU'RE NOT MAD WHEN I TOUCH YOU LIKE THIS
NO, I REFUSE TO GIVE UP
IN THAT CASE, DROP DEAD.
pet

I SEE
—THEN I'D FIND THE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION TO KEEP ON LIVING.
BUT IF I COULD RECEIVE JUST ONE KISS FROM YOU, KUDO-SAN...

TAKE A BLANKET!


CAN I SLEEP ON THE SOFA? I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND A HOTEL ROOM AT THIS LATE HOUR.
DON'T TOUCH ME ANYMORE AND DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

HEHE... YOU'RE BEING FAR TOO GENEROUS WITH ME, KUDO-SAN
I WONDER IF THIS IS KAREN'S IDEA OF A JOKE MAYBE SHE'S UP IN HEAVEN LAUGHING AT ME
I THINK SHE MADE ME STEAL YOUR WALLET SO WE COULD MEET EACH OTHER KUDO-SAN
brr brr brr
YOUR PHONE AGAIN
brr brr
SOMEONE'S REALLY SEARCHING FOR YOU, AREN'T THEY?
.....
click
YO KUDO! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? IT'S ME, PETER PETER BRANA
YOU MADE IT OVER HERE YET?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN, PLUS I HAVE A LONG LIST OF FAVORS I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU
WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THIS TOWN, WE'LL ORGANIZE A WELCOME RECEPTION FOR YOU.
KUDO?


MM
Snap
11
4

HMM?

GET UP
GET UP AND GET DRESSED, KUDO

天国が見える[後編]

Tengoku ga Mieru

Viewing Heaven [part 2]

ARE YOU ASKING ME --

YOU FRIENDS WITH GUYS LIKE PETER BRUNA?

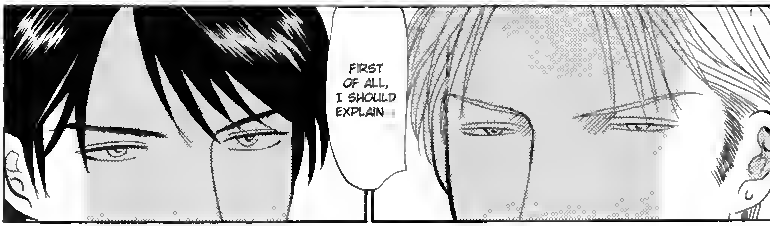
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT BEATING UP A THIEF ONLY LEADS TO TROUBLE——
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU MEAN I'M NOT ALLOWED TO JOKE AROUND WITH THE GUY WHO DOES NOTHING BUT JOKE AROUND?
FINE I GET THE MESSAGE.

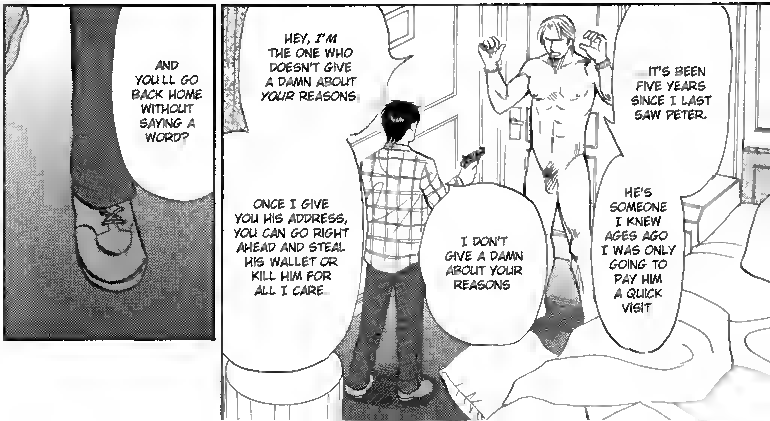
— BECAUSE YOU'VE STOLEN PETER'S WALLET BEFORE?
DON'T JOKE AROUND. HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED.
GEEZ...

crack
WHACK

FLOMP
HO
BANG
drip
drip

CLOSE CALL, HUH?
DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES.
I WON'T LET YOU LIVE UNLESS YOU LEAD ME TO HIS PLACE.


FIRST OF ALL, I SHOULD EXPLAIN


AND YOU'LL GO BACK HOME WITHOUT SAYING A WORD?
HEY, I'M THE ONE WHO DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR REASONS.
ONCE I GIVE YOU HIS ADDRESS, YOU CAN GO RIGHT AHEAD AND STEAL HIS WALLET OR KILL HIM FOR ALL I CARE.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR REASONS
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW PETER.
HE'S SOMEONE I KNEW AGES AGO. I WAS ONLY GOING TO PAY HIM A QUICK VISIT

HE'S A SHARP OPERATOR THESE DAYS.
SO I DOUBT HE'LL SIMPLY LET ME IN IF I KNOCK ON HIS FRONT DOOR.
IT'LL BE EASIER FOR ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU WHEN YOU MEET UP.
DID HE KILL YOUR WIFE?
YOU DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT MY REASONS, RIGHT?
SURELY THAT'S THE TYPICAL ATTITUDE OF MEN LIKE YOU.
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN FLINCHING WHEN A PISTOL'S SHOVED IN FRONT OF YOU.
I'M USED TO IT.
BUT I'M A PRETTY AVERAGE PERSON.
WHEN COMPARED TO A PSYCHO LIKE YOU
I VALUE LIFE AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN MAKING TROUBLE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO STAND THERE LISTENING TO ME, CAN I AT LEAST PUT ON MY UNDERPANTS?
SURE.
IT WOULD BE A REAL SHAME IF OTHER GUYS CAUGHT AN EYEFUL OF THAT.
GET DRESSED.

PETER?
IT'S ME, KUDO. SORRY FOR CALLING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
YEAH, IT WAS PRETTY HECTIC YESTERDAY I WASN'T ABLE TO ANSWER MY PHONE
HAHAHA! TAKE IT EASY!
SO WHAT'S A GOOD TIME AND PLACE FOR US TO MEET UP?
ONE P.M AT HOTEL BRASSERIE?
GOT IT
NAH, NO NEED FOR A WELCOME RECEPTION
I'LL SEE YOU THEN
IS YOUR SHOULDER SORE?
IT HURTS A LOT. I COULDN'T TAKE MUCH MORE...
MY FAULT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOOT YOU
AH!
drop
pang

I BROUGHT SOME OINTMENT WITH ME
LET'S TAKE A BREAK IN THIS PARK
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN
YOU ALREADY HEARD THE TIME AND PLACE I'M TO MEET HIM.
I'M AFRAID I DON'T TRUST YOU
IT MIGHT BE A TRAP. THE POLICE MIGHT BE WAITING TO AMBUSH ME IF I TURN UP ALONE.
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT I WON'T HURT YOU AGAIN
THIS IS JUST A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE
I DON'T TRUST YOU EITHER.
WHAT'S A PSYCHO LIKE YOU PLANNING TO DO TO ME?
ANYWAY
IT LOOKS LIKE THE BLEEDING'S STOPPED
I'M SORRY. I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT THIS
ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
HONEST, I'M SORRY
DOES YOUR FACE HURT
YOU BASTARD?
WELL, IT BEATS HAVING MY FINGER CUT OFF

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
OUT OF ALL THE PASSENGERS ON THAT FERRY, NO DECENT PERSON WOULD EVER PICK SOMEONE LIKE ME FOR A FRIENDLY CHITCHAT.
LET ME BUY A COFFEE.
WHAT? YOU REALLY THOUGHT I WAS A NICE GUY WHEN WE FIRST MET?
AH, THANKS.
HOW COME...
...YOU NEVER ANSWERED YOUR PHONE, KUDO-SAN?
DID YOU HAVE TO CUT YOUR FINGER OFF BEFORE YOU WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE YAKUZA?
YOUR PLAN WAS TO GO BACK TO A LIFE ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW, WASN'T IT?
GO BACK?
THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO GO BACK——
THEN GO GET MARRIED!
YOU SHOULD MARRY AND SETTLE DOWN, KUDO-SAN!
WHAT?
SINCE YOU'RE THE KIND OF MAN WHO'S WILLING TO SERVE A BOSS I'M SURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH A WIFE WHO CALLS THE SHOTS.
IS THAT THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE?
THAT'S RIGHT.

KAREN BOSSED ME AROUND A LOT.
IT WAS KAREN WHO GAVE THE ORDERS. MY JOB WAS TO LISTEN.
I WENT AS FAR AS QUITTING TOBACCO AND DRUGS, AS WELL AS CUTTING MY TIES WITH OTHER CRIMINALS.
THAT'S THE PATH I TOOK THANKS TO KAREN'S ADVICE...
SO YOU MEAN KAREN'S UP IN HEAVEN TELLING YOU TO KILL PETER?
IS SHE THE ONE AFTER REVENGE?
YEAH—
YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
KAREN'S NOT THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO'D THINK OF—
— PUTTING REVENGE ABOVE ALL ELSE.
PLUS I SUPPOSE BRANA HAD NO IDEA WHAT KAREN LOOKED LIKE.
ACCORDING TO WHAT I HEARD, HE SIMPLY TOLD ONE OF HIS MINIONS TO BUMP OFF A MEMBER OF THE TOWN'S ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN——
IN THAT CASE KAREN WOULD BE UPSET TO SEE YOU —
— THREATENING SOMEONE WITH A PISTOL AND PLOTTING A MURDER
.....
Swipe

THE TRUTH IS...
MY OLD LIFE SUITED ME FAIRLY WELL...
I WONDER IF THAT GUY WHO SHARED A LIFE WITH KAREN WAS THE REAL ME
...YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK, KUDO-SAN?
BUT...
DRINKING ALCOHOL AND TAKING DRUGS...
SLEEPING AROUND WITH AS MANY GOOD-LOOKING GUYS AS I COULD PICK UP—
PICKING THE POCKETS OF THE NEAREST DUPE WHEN MONEY RAN OUT—
YOU SEE? I WAS EVEN CRAZY ENOUGH TO PICK FIGHTS WITH STRANGERS.
ANYWAY, KUDO-SAN, I'M SURE YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
STUFF LIKE THIS IS SECOND NATURE TO US
IT'S IN OUR BLOOD THAT'S THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE
WE'RE NOT LIKE THOSE DO-GOODERS WHO STRIVE FOR A PLACE IN HEAVEN OR PUT THEIR FAITH IN LOVE AND PEACE
EVEN IF WE WANDER INTO A MEADOW OF FLOWERS NOW AND THEN, EVENTUALLY WE'LL END UP RETURNING TO THE SEWER OF OUR OWN FREE WILL

NO, I DON'T...
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR US IN HEAVEN
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S OUR GOOD FORTUNE?
WE'RE NO BETTER THAN WORMS THAT WRIGGLE AROUND AND DIE IN THE GUTTER WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR HELL...
BANG
PULL
HEY!
SOME-ONE!
HELP ME! I'M BEING ROBBED!
HELP ME!
WAS THAT A GUN-SHOT?
WHAT ARE YOU...
GRAB

BANG
110
SHIT!
WAAH!
HE'S BEEN SHOT!
QUICK, CALL THE POLICE!
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
KYAAA!
YEAH - JUST A GRAZE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DON'T CHASE HIM! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS!
RING THE POLICE!
I'LL MAKE MY OWN WAY TO THE HOSPITAL
THANKS ANYWAY FOR YOUR CONCERN
WE'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
I HEAR YOU LUKE
I HEARD SO MUCH I BECAME SICK TO DEATH OF YOUR NON-STOP RANTING
I HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR

WHEN I TOLD YOU TO COME OVER AND SHOW ME THE WAY
MAYBE YOU ZEROED IN ON ME BECAUSE YOU SENSED WE WERE ALIKE
LIKE YOU I'M HAUNTED BY MEMORIES FROM THE PAST
EVEN FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LOST OUR HUMANITY AND GONE BACK TO THE SEWER
CAN'T SOME OF US BREAK THE HABIT AND MAKE A FRESH START?
I GUESS I WANTED TO WANDER THROUGH THE FLOWER MEADOW A LITTLE LONGER, SO TO SPEAK
BUT I'M HEADING BACK NOW
BACK TO MY ROOTS
I WONDER IF THAT GUY WHO SHARED A LIFE WITH KAREN WAS THE REAL ME
YOU'LL BE ARRESTED IN NO TIME AT ALL
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
YOU DIDN'T NAB MY SUITCASE YOU'VE BEEN SEEN BY MANY EYEWITNESSES CHANCES ARE YOU'VE GOT PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THE REAL ME"?
THE REAL ME...

I MADE ONE OF MY DEPUTIES GO OVER THERE TO GIVE A STATEMENT
I WASN'T HURT, BUT IT TURNS OUT SOMEONE'S ALREADY CALLED THE POLICE
SOME NUTCASE WAS SHOOTING AT ME
THERE'S BEEN SOME TROUBLE HERE
DID YOU GET HIM?
HUH?
EH?
I'LL BE A BIT LATE—
AH, PETER! GOOD TIMING... I WAS ABOUT TO CALL YOU
YEAH?
PRRR...
HUH?
KUDO-SAN I'M SO SORRY
KUDO-SAN
NAH, HE GOT AWAY BUT MY BODY-GUARD SHOT HIM IN THE ABDOMEN AND BACK AND THE BASTARD'S BLED ALL OVER THE PLACE
DID YOU GET THE GUY WHO SHOT AT YOU?
YEAH
TONIGHT...
ANYWAY, LET'S MEET UP TONIGHT
HE'LL END UP FREEZING TO DEATH
LOOK OUTSIDE TONIGHT THE WEATHER'S GOING TO BE BAD
HELL, EVEN IF HE'S NOT CAUGHT HE'LL END UP DEAD WHEREVER HE GOES

YOUR BOSS IS DEAD ISN T HE?
NAH HE S ALIVE
THAT'S GREAT NEWS!
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
WHAT A RELIEF!
CLATTER

LUKE,
YOU FOOL!
IF ONLY THEY'D CAUGHT YOU SOONER
WHERE ARE YOU? DON'T RUN AWAY!
LUKE TOOK ME AROUND THESE STREETS...
I'M NEAR THE HARBOR.
I CAN SEE BOATS
DID YOU SPEND TIME WITH KAREN RIDING THE FERRY? DID YOU WALK ALONG THESE STREETS TOGETHER ON YOUR WAY HOME?
BUT YOU'RE OUT OF MONEY
YOU NEED MONEY TO RIDE THE FERRY
UH OH!
WHERE DOES THAT GUY THINK HE'S GOING IN SUCH A TINY BOAT? AND IN THIS ONCOMING STORM TOO.
I BET THAT'S HIM...

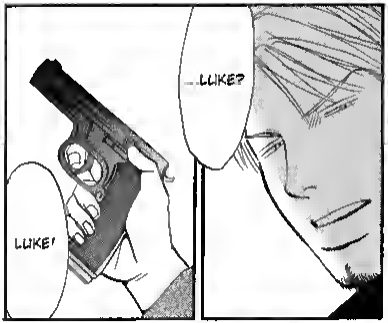
I BET HE'S ON THAT BOAT!
YO MISTER! WHERE'S THE NEAREST PLACE I CAN HIRE A BOAT?
A BOAT?
A STORM'S COMING. IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK
I'VE JUST MADE IT BACK TO THE HARBOR IN TIME
I'M HIRING YOUR BOAT! IS THIS ENOUGH FOR YOU?
WOW! THANKS!
BUT DON'T GO OUT ON THE OPEN SEA!
I'M AFTER A CRIMINAL ON THE RUN! CALL THE POLICE!
I HOPE I REMEMBER HOW TO OPERATE A BOAT..
VROOM

WHERE THE HELL IS IT GOING?
WHAT'S IT DOING?
SURELY IT MUST BE LIKE...?
SOMEONE'S AT THE HELM...
MAYBE HE'S ALREADY...
YO! WHO'S IN THERE?
BANG
CRASH

SORRY, KUDO-SAN ..
DID I HIT YOU AGAIN?
NO, YOU MISSED
SEEMS LIKE DEATH ISN'T ON YOUR SIDE

WAIT. WHERE ARE WE GOING?
BACK TO SHORE.
DON'T TURN BACK!
YOU'LL DIE IF YOU DON'T GET TO A HOSPITAL SOON.
TURN BACK AND I'LL FIRE!
FIRE AWAY.

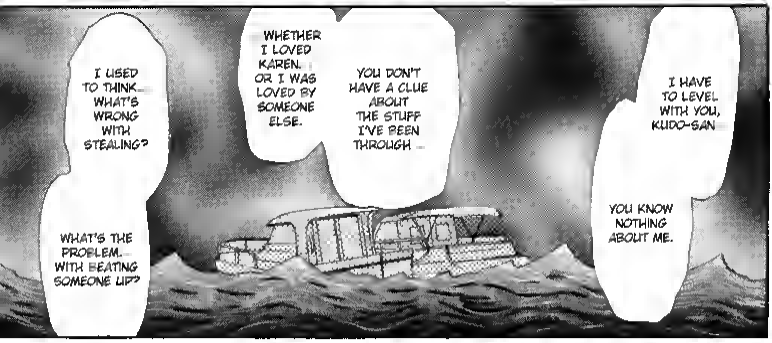
YOU TOLD ME WE'RE NOT GOING TO HEAVEN AND WE BELONG IN THE SEWER...
...AND I COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE.
YOU SAID I'M THE SAME KIND OF PERSON AS YOU
WHY ARE YOU HERE? I DON'T GET IT...


...LUKE?
LUKE!

PLEASE, KUDO-SAN!
I DON'T WANT TO BE ARRESTED BY THE POLICE!
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY IN THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN.

...IMAGINE WHAT KAREN MUST BE THINKING.
I BEG OF YOU...
LUKE...

YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH HER, DIDN'T YOU?
WOULD DOING THIS MAKE KAREN HAPPY?
YOU MAY BE A PSYCHO, BUT YOUR LOVE FOR KAREN IS GENUINE
HOW WOULD SHE FEEL ABOUT THIS?
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WOMEN... BUT SHE MUST BE PRETTY SPECIAL...
...FOR YOU TO LOVE HER SO MUCH
A WOMAN LIKE
I MEAN.


I HAVE TO LEVEL WITH YOU, KUDO-SAN
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT THE STUFF I'VE BEEN THROUGH
WHETHER I LOVED KAREN, OR I WAS LOVED BY SOMEONE ELSE.
I USED TO THINK... WHAT'S WRONG WITH STEALING?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM... WITH BEATING SOMEONE UP?

IT WAS KAREN...
I ONLY STOPPED... BECAUSE KAREN TOLD ME TO GIVE IT UP.
FINISHING OFF... THIS LOSER... MIGHT BE THE BEST SOLUTION FOR EVERYONE.
FINALLY... FINALLY I'LL BE ABLE TO UNDO IT ALL...
cough
cough
LUKE, DON'T TALK ANYMORE.
LUKE!
OOPS!
UGH...
Bleargh

LEAVE ME ALONE!
cough cough
I HEAR YOU. NOW STOP WAVING IT AROUND. THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO HOLD A GUN
DON'T TALK ANYMORE
WHY DID YOU BOTHER COMING AFTER ME?
WHY?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THE THE TYPE TO CARE
YOU...
YOU SPOKE TO ME... AND OPENED MY EYES...
...AND THAT'S HOW I REGAINED MY HUMANITY
I'M HUMAN AGAIN

NOW THEN...
...YOU ASKED ME FOR THIS.
YOU TOLD ME YOU'D FIND THE STRENGTH TO KEEP ON LIVING ONCE I KISSED YOU
LUKE...
YOU REMEMBER, DON'T YOU?

KUDO-SAN... IS OUR FIRST KISS ALREADY OVER?
OF COURSE IT'S OVER! AREN'T YOU BLEEDING HEAVILY FROM SERIOUS GUNSHOT WOUNDS?
honk honk
THAT'S THE POLICE BOAT.
DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY ON TALKING
WELL DONE

THANKS TO YOUR KISS, KUDO-SAN,
I'VE BEGUN TO VISUALIZE IT...
...A VIEW OF HEAVEN.
N/H...

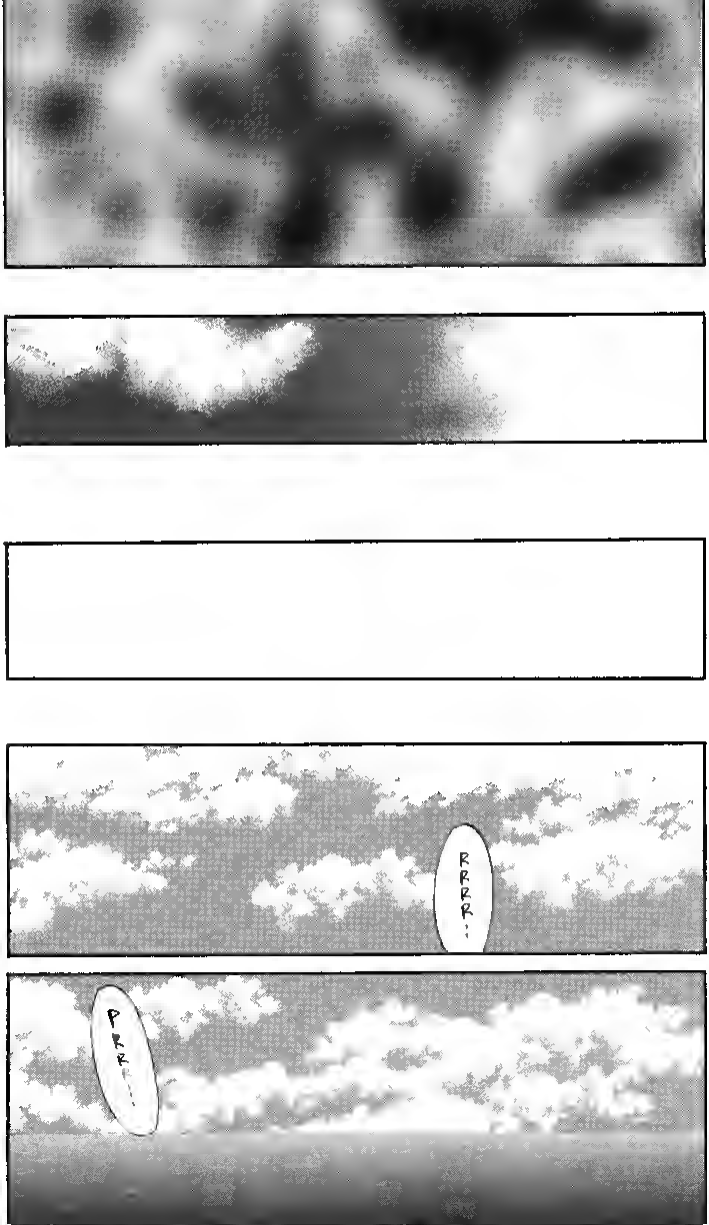
wham
IT'S THE POLICE!
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS!
NOT YET, LUKE!
HANG IN THERE!
HEAVEN... KAREN ENDED UP THERE...

LUKE, I'LL CARRY YOU OVER.
TAKE HIM BACK TO SHORE IN YOUR FASTER BOAT!
ARE YOU THE ONLY OTHER PERSON ABOARD?
THIS MAN'S NOT INVOLVED. HE'S JUST A TOURIST...
cough
DON'T TALK, LUKE.
HE'S THE MAN WANTED OVER THAT SHOOTING INCIDENT!
HE'S INJURED! HE WON'T MAKE IT UNLESS HE'S RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL!
NOT YET! NOT YET!
KEEP YOUR BALANCE!
THE SEA'S ROUGH!
TAKE CARE!
JAB
WHAT?!
NOW!

IT'S NO USE, KUDO-SAN
GRAB MY HAND, LUKE!
MAN OVER-BOARD!
QUICK! THROW HIM A FLOTATION RING!
LUKE!
splish
splash
NOT YET, LUKE!
LIVE! YOU'VE GOT TO LIVE!
THIS WAY I CAN BE REUNITED WITH KAREN
UP IN HEAVEN
I KNOW I'LL END UP COMING OUT HERE AGAIN
WITHOUT KAREN IN MY LIFE I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LIVE FOR
YOU WANT ME TO KISS YOU? I'LL KISS YOU AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT!
I'M BEGGING YOU, LUKE! TAKE MY HAND!

GOTCHA!
GRAB
yank
LUKE!
SPLASH
LU...
I'M DITCHING THESE GUYS—
—AND I'LL BE ON MY WAY—
—BECAUSE YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS NOW
LUKE—

I'M SURE...
...I'LL SEE YOU SOMEDAY IN HEAVEN.
LUKE!
LUKE!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
DON'T JUMP IN AFTER HIM!
LUKE!
LUKE!
TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON HIM!
GET THE WETSUITS!
IN THESE WAVES WE'LL NEVER...
LU—

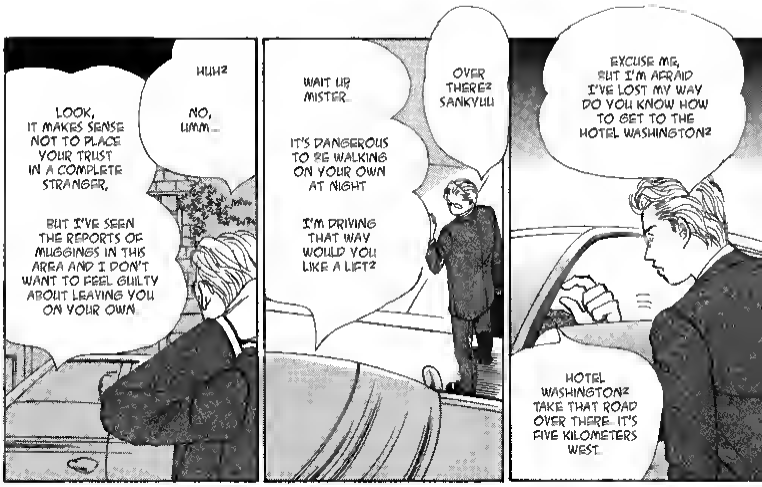

RRRR...
PRR...

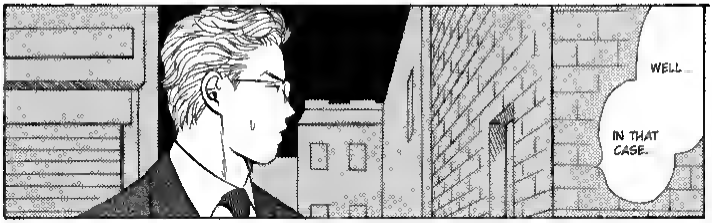
OH, IS THAT KUDO?
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY? DIDN'T YOU SHOW UP?
WELL, IT WAS A BAD TIME FOR ME AS WELL.
click
カチ
ERR!
MAYBE LATER TODAY—
YO KUDO!
KUDO? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WHAT'S GOING ON, KUDO?
plop
ポチャン

HERE YOU GO.
YOU CAN TAKE IT...
...LUKE.
IT'S A SUNNY DAY DOWN HERE.
IS IT THE SAME FOR YOU AS WELL...

WILL THERE COME A DAY WHEN I VIEW HEAVEN TOO?
END

HONESTLY, I SHOULD'VE TAKEN THE SUBWAY IN THE FIRST PLACE
SHIT!
WHERE AM I? AM I GOING THE RIGHT WAY?
GOOD NIGHT
tap tap
I'LL TRY ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS.
ALTHOUGH THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH CRIME HERE LATELY, IT'S UNSAFE TO BE OUT ALONE THIS LATE.
VROOM


EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M AFRAID I'VE LOST MY WAY DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET TO THE HOTEL WASHINGTON?
HOTEL WASHINGTON? TAKE THAT ROAD OVER THERE. IT'S FIVE KILOMETERS WEST.
OVER THERE? SANKYU!!
WAIT UP, MISTER.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE WALKING ON YOUR OWN AT NIGHT.
I'M DRIVING THAT WAY. WOULD YOU LIKE A LIFT?
HUH?
NO, UMM...
LOOK, IT MAKES SENSE NOT TO PLACE YOUR TRUST IN A COMPLETE STRANGER,
BUT I'VE SEEN THE REPORTS OF MUGGINGS IN THIS AREA AND I DON'T WANT TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT LEAVING YOU ON YOUR OWN.


WELL...
IN THAT CASE...

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT I'LL MAKE IT SHORT.
OH, IT'S.
BRRR BRRR
SORRY, MY PHONE'S RINGING.
FEEL FREE TO ANSWER IT. I DON'T MIND.
VROOM

LUH HUH. I ASKED THIS MAN FOR DIRECTIONS AND HE KINDLY OFFERED TO DRIVE ME THERE IN HIS CAR
HUH?
YEAH, I.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAVEN'T REACHED THE HOTEL YET.
WELL, I DID FINISH WORK BUT I GOT LOST ON THE WAY BACK.
MATSU-MOTO?
AHA! THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY! I CAN SEE THE HOTEL!
HUH?
YEAH, EVERYTHING'S FINE. WE'RE DRIVING ALONG A WELL-LIT ROAD.
WELL, I DID THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY BEFORE I ACCEPTED HIS OFFER. MAYBE IT WAS A RISKY DECISION TO MAKE.
HM?
HE'S QUITE GOOD-LOOKING, ACTUALLY.
NO, NOT AT ALL!
WELL, NOW THAT I CAN SEE HIS FACE IN THE LIGHT, HE DOES LOOK A BIT INTIMIDATING...
BUT HE DRIVES AN EXPENSIVE CAR, HE'S SMARTLY-DRESSED, AND HE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL.
S-SORRY ABOUT THAT.
AHEM!
YOU FOOL! YOU'RE JEALOUS! YOU'RE REALLY JEALOUS! HAHAHAHA!
HUH? HUH? WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FEELING JEALOUS?

BE QUIET!
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS NOW?
HUH?
I BETTER GO.
YOU'RE A BAD INFLUENCE ON ME. I TURN INTO A SILLY TEENAGE BOY WHENEVER I TALK TO YOU.
HMPH!
YOU STRAIGHT BASTARD!
IF YOU'RE PREPARED TO MAKE A PASS AT ME FOR ONCE THEN GO RIGHT AHEAD,
MISTER?
WE'VE ARRIVED AT YOUR HOTEL.

YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A GREAT HELP TO ME
HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD MY NAME IS MINATO WHEN I RETURN HOME TO JAPAN, I'LL DEFINITELY FIND A WAY TO REPAY YOUR KINDNESS
MAY I ASK YOU FOR YOUR NAME?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I HAPPENED TO BE DRIVING THE SAME WAY
IT'S KUDO
I BETTER GO NOW I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.
SORRY, I DIDN'T REALIZE
UH HOLD ON, MATSU-MOTO
YOU CAN GET OUT HERE, MISTER
DON'T WORRY I HAVEN'T SPOKEN JAPANESE IN AGES SO I DON'T REMEMBER THAT MUCH
HUH? SO YOU'RE PART-JAPANESE?
whoosh
KUDO-SAN? THAT SOUNDS LIKE A JAPANESE NAME.
ACTUALLY, YOUR FEATURES DO LOOK A BIT...
WHAT?
KUDO
.....
.....
YEAH, I WILL! THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!
I-I SEE THEN MY TALK ON THE PHONE DIDN'T BOTHER YOU... DID IT?
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
VROOM

SHEESH!
THEY'RE A HOPELESS BUNCH OF BABBLING IDIOTS!
DAMN JAPANESE SALARYMEN HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT!

END

御感想などのお便りは、〒112-8580 （株）芳文社
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青春の病は④	2007年花音10月号
天国が見える[前編]	2006年花音12月号
天国が見える[後編]	2007年花音1月号
GOOD NIGHT	描き下ろし

花音コミックス◆

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